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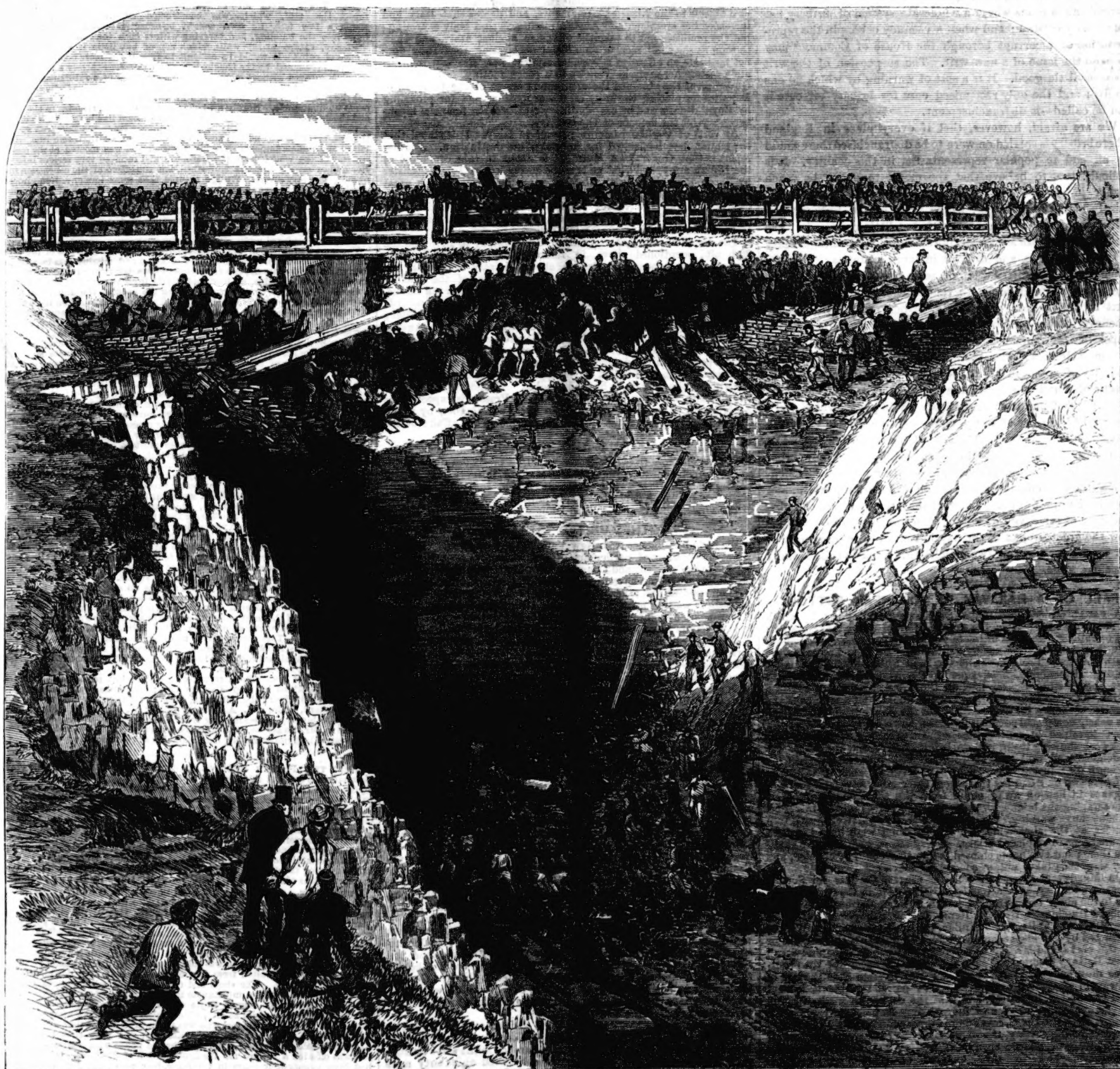
REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

If the present Ministry does not rule the House of Commons, it is, at least, reasonable enough to allow itself to be ruled by it, and its decision to conform to the wishes of the Liberal majority was the wisest it could have taken. A little more than half the entire House was absolutely in favour of the Government measure as it stood; and of the formidable Opposition a certain proportion declared that its hostility was based solely upon the fact that the Government had not laid its entire scheme of reform before Parliament. At the same time, it would be rash to assume that those who

opposed the Franchise Bill on the ground that they did not know what the views of the Government were in respect to a redistribution of seats, will now as a matter of course be satisfied with the mode in which the Government will propose to redistribute them. The instinct of self-preservation is strong in members of Parliament, as in other animals; and there are, no doubt, professed reformers in the House who will, nevertheless, be unwilling to vote themselves away. But this natural aversion to political suicide will meet with little sympathy from those who fear no such fate for themselves; and a wise measure of redistribution, based on some intelligible

principle, cannot fail to bring all true Liberals to the side of the Government. At the present moment, to increase the number of electors in some boroughs would be merely to increase the bribable element, which, as recent disclosures have proved, is, in many parts of the country, alarmingly strong. And, reform Parliament as we may in a political sense, it will never be the true representative body it ought to be until a moral reform as against bribery is brought about.

The evidence given before the Committees appointed to examine and report upon the election petitions, has shown that bribery at elections is by no means on the decrease; and,



THIS FATAL ACCIDENT AT SUTTON RAILWAY BRIDGE.

moreover, that there is no possibility of dealing with the evil by existing laws. When a borough is so corrupt that its corruption has become a public scandal, the place may be disfranchised, which is really a punishment, of the nature of a fine, to the bribe-taking electors. But as long as rich candidates are found willing to pay enormous sums for the honour of sitting in Parliament, poor but dishonest voters will always be found ready to take their money; and, to put an end to bribery, the bribe-taker as well as the bribe-giver ought to be punishable. At present, in political corruption, society has nothing to say to the tempter, but reserves all its condemnation for those who succumb to temptation. Of course we have no pity for electors who, having bribes offered them, incontinently take them. We do not propose in the slightest degree to regard them as "victims." All we maintain is that the guilt is not theirs alone, but that it is shared by those who urge them to it, just as the guilt of a hired assassin is shared by the man who hires him.

Of the sixty-two petitions presented to the House of Commons this Session against the return of members, no less than fifty-one have been based upon charges of bribery. In how many of these cases the charges of bribery will be proved we cannot of course say; but no one will suppose that there are only fifty-one places in England where bribery at elections habitually takes place. However, the Election Committees have already reported that at five places "corrupt practices" have been extensively carried on; and it is worth while inquiring what, in the existing state of the law, can be done to remedy this state of things. In the first place, the chairman of the Committee which has reported as to the corruptness of a given place may move for an address from both Houses of Parliament to the Crown, praying for the issue of a Commission to inquire into the existence of the alleged malpractices, after which, those who appear to have been guilty of them may be prosecuted by the Attorney-General. This machinery is very complicated, and it is seldom, if ever, put in motion. The Legislature, however, may pass an Act disfranchising a place where a wholesale system of bribery has notoriously existed; and when a vacancy occurs in the representation of a corrupt borough the House of Commons may suspend the issue of a new writ. The suspension of the writ does but little good. It is a sort of warning by which no one profits; and the only recognised cure for bribery—if cure it can be called—is disfranchisement.

We are afraid, however, that if every place in England where bribery is carried on were to be disfranchised there would be an end to popular representation in this country. It is difficult, too, to believe that the moral tone can be much higher in one borough than in another, and that it is constantly higher in boroughs, where most of the bribery takes place, than in counties, where it is but little practised. The fact is that the art of administering bribes with advantage is easy in small boroughs and difficult in large counties; and in a scheme for the redistribution of seats one great object of the Government ought to be to render it not only difficult but next to impossible. Practically, bribery will be impossible whenever it is felt to be unprofitable. Thus it will be impossible for an agent to persuade a candidate to bribe several thousand electors if, even then, he will not be sure of having a majority of voters in his favour. Whatever may be said in favour of small boroughs, it is in small boroughs above all that bribery flourishes; and it is only in places where every voter, and the price of every voter, can be known that it is carried on as a system. The aim of the Government, and of all earnest reformers, should be, as we have said in another column, so to rearrange the representation as to make calculations of the effects of corruption difficult, uncertain, and therefore unprofitable. The fact that this question of redistribution of seats, and its influence on the purity of election, is now the great subject of the day in regard to reform, must be our excuse for devoting two articles this week to substantially the same topic.

FALL OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE NEAR SUTTON.

A FATAL accident occurred at Sutton on Saturday last, by which six men were killed. The South Coast Company are making a new line of railway, which is ultimately intended to connect Portsmouth with their London terminus by a direct route. It is known as the South London, Tooting, Mitcham, and Sutton Line, and, after crossing Mitcham-common, runs at the west of Carshalton and joins the existing Epsom line, on the London side of the Sutton station. A deep cutting through chalk, about half a mile from the junction, renders a bridge necessary for the public road. The bridge was nearly completed some weeks since, but a doubt of its stability was entertained in consequence of an extensive fracture in the brickwork showing itself, reports being current that the bridge was condemned, and that several workmen had been discharged from the work for refusing to endanger their lives by working at it. At half-past two on Saturday there were three labourers employed with pickaxes in hewing away chalk from the sides, and three others were scraping the brickwork preparatory to pointing. At this time, without any warning, the whole mass of brickwork was torn asunder at the abutments, and the six men were buried under a hundred tons of displaced bricks. Every effort was made to extricate them; but two hours elapsed before this could be effected, and they were then taken out, of course, quite dead.

On Monday evening, Mr. William Carter, Coroner for Surrey, opened an inquiry, at the Windsor Castle Tavern, Carshalton, relative to the above occurrence, by which Edward Barrett, thirty-five; Richard Hutchinson, twenty; Henry Tanner, thirty-three; Thomas Round, Charles Collard, and William Cook were killed. Mr. Wilson, instructed by Mr. Fisher, appeared for Mr. Firbank, the contractor for the works, and Mr. Faithful represented the London and South Coast Railway Company. In order that the nature of the occurrence may be understood, it is necessary to state that the line of railway in course of construction runs parallel to the main road from Carshalton to Sutton, and that the cutting is made through the solid chalk, at a depth of fifty or sixty feet. A farmer's road, at right angles to the Carshalton road, near Carshalton-hill, crossing the route of the cutting, it was necessary to construct a bridge over it. A bridge of a large span, it is said of 80 ft., was accordingly constructed, and to save expense of scaffolding, &c., the chalk was merely cut down so as to form a support

for the centring. When the brickwork was laid there was only one foot between it and the chalk. Some four or five transverse galleries, about 4 ft. deep, were cut through the top of the chalk, to enable workmen to get at and strike the centring and point the brickwork. The centring was struck on Tuesday week, and the men were in the little galleries preparing to point the brickwork, on Saturday last, when the bridge fell. All the men in the galleries were killed with the exception of one, named John White. White was the only witness examined, and he stated that neither he nor any of his comrades had any apprehension of danger. He felt a puff of wind, and then the whole bridge fell in. He was buried, but he got out, and found no trace of the others. He shouted, and men came, who, in the course of two hours, got six bodies out of the galleries, quite dead. Three of the men had been at work with pickaxes enlarging the galleries for the bricklayers' labourers to stand upright in them. It is stated that the cause of the catastrophe was the action of the rain on Saturday last weakening the abutments, the brickwork of which had not had sufficient time to set. No evidence, however, has as yet been taken on this point. Dr. W. H. Cressy proved that all the men died from suffocation. Most of them had terrible fractures of the skull. The proceedings were adjourned, after the identification of four of the deceased, until next Wednesday.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is still little or no domestic news of interest from Paris. Attention is exclusively devoted to the prospects of war between Austria on the one side and Prussia and Italy on the other. The Paris Bourse has been greatly agitated by the rumours in circulation, and the general feeling is that war is inevitable. Meanwhile the Emperor gives no sign of his intentions, a circumstance which adds to the uneasy feeling in the public mind.

GERMANY AND ITALY.

The news from Germany exhibits no improvement. Count Bismarck threatens Saxony with ulterior measures unless she at once disarms. Saxony, on the other hand, justifies her military preparations on the ground that she may be called upon by the Federal Diet to provide a contingent. It is stated that Prussia has lost no time in answering the Austrian note of the 26th ult., and that she insists upon regarding the movement of Austria in the direction of Italy as a menace. Just as an arrangement appeared to have been come to for the simultaneous demobilisation of the armaments of Austria and Prussia, the latter Power objects to the Austrian preparations in Venetia and on the frontiers against an attack from Italy. The Italian Government also objects to the Austrian armaments, and denies that Italy had increased her armaments. Austria maintains that Italy is arming; but she promises not to take the offensive against Italy, and that, so soon as she shall receive an official declaration that Italy does not meditate an offensive movement against her, she will immediately restore her army in Venetia to a peace footing. The Italian Government has obtained the unanimous assent of the Chamber of Deputies for placing the army on a war footing, and for providing by Royal decrees and by extraordinary measures the financial means necessary for the defence of the country.

All sorts of warlike rumours prevail in Italy. It is stated that the Italian fleet has sailed for an unknown destination. Another report is that General La Marmora is about to take command of the Italian army, and that he is to be succeeded as Prime Minister by Baron Ricasoli. This statement must be received with great caution. If, however, it should be true it will indicate pretty clearly that war is intended. The Government has concluded an arrangement with the Bank of Italy, whereby the latter lends the Government the sum of 250,000,000 lire.

The despatch sent by the Austrian Government to Berlin on the 26th ult., mentioned above, in reference to Schleswig-Holstein, proposes that Austria and Prussia should jointly declare in the Federal Diet their readiness to instal as Duke of the duchies the claimant whom the Diet may think best entitled to the throne. Should Prussia agree to this proposal, Austria promises to concede certain positive advantages to Prussia—namely, definite military positions at Kiel, Rendsburg, and Sonderburg. Moreover, Austria undertakes to stipulate with the future Sovereign of Schleswig-Holstein for the cession to Prussia of other advantages relating to the latter's position in the duchies. The Prussian reply to the above note is dated the 28th, and is said to declare the proposals of Austria in reference to the duchies to be inadmissible. No immediate rupture on this score, however, between Austria and Prussia is expected, as Austria will submit her proposals to the Federal Diet, by which they will be referred to the special committee on the affairs of the duchies.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

The deputation from the Hungarian Diet presented the Address to the Emperor on the 26th ult. His Majesty, in reply, expressed a hope that the Diet would accelerate the arrangement of those matters upon which depend the tranquillity, power, and prosperity of the whole monarchy, as well as Hungary.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have intelligence from New York to the 21st ult. There is nothing of particular interest in regard to the contest between the President and Congress, save that resolutions indorsing Mr. Johnson's policy have been defeated in the Texan Convention. The President had taken the occasion of a deputation of soldiers and sailors waiting upon him to thank him for recommending the Government appointments to be given to persons who have served in the army or navy to declare that he is the negroes' real friend.

The House of Representatives had requested the production of all correspondence relating to the occupation of Mexico by the French. The *New York Times* declares that the United States ought to resist the sending of troops to Mexico by Austria.

General Meade had arrived at Eastport, and had an interview with the British General Boyle, when an understanding was come to that the neutrality laws would be enforced, and that the Federal troops would prevent any disturbances in the vicinity of St. Stephen's. This understanding was followed up by the seizure by the Federal authorities of a Fenian vessel. A large naval force, American and British, had assembled to watch the Fenians; and the result has been that Doran Killian, the Fenian leader there, had "skedaddled," and his followers had been recalled.

The Fenians, however, had at last done something—they had taken one man and a flag from a little island opposite Eastport, Maine. The flag will probably be exhibited at public meetings as a trophy, and the poor dupes who are being tricked out of their money week after week may be tempted by the spectacle to buy some more bonds of the Irish republic. It is plain, however, that the Fenian conspiracy is beginning to totter, and before long it will be in that stage which is called in America "bursting up," unless it should receive a fresh impetus by the arrival of Stephens, who up to this time has not been heard of. The hope of the leaders now is to do something which will induce the American Government to interfere with them, so that they may go back to their credulous victims and say, "We would have done so-and-so if the Government had not stopped us. They have helped England, and you must blame them for our failure." This would save the bubble from that collapse which now seems to threaten it; but the Government understands the scheme, and no expedition of which the authorities have cognisance will be allowed to leave any American port, or any part of the coast.

Another steamer—the *Virginian*—had arrived at New York with cholera on board. Thirty-eight deaths had occurred on the passage. It is noted that the disease made its appearance in the same latitude as it did on board the *England*. One hundred and thirty more deaths had occurred on board the latter vessel.

MEXICO.

New York advices from Mazatlan speak of a defeat of the French near that place with great loss. The news reached New York by way of San Francisco, and it is to be noticed that the Imperial Consul at that place denies that any battle has been fought recently near Mazatlan.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The news from the Brazils is not without interest. Very little change had taken place in the position of the hostile forces. The Paraguayans have hitherto baffled the attempts of the allies to enter their territory. It is added that a force of Paraguayans had crossed the Parana at Candelaria, driven back the allied vanguard, and was advancing to give battle to the Brazilian army under Baron Alegre.

EXPLOSION OF A STEAMER AT COLON.

By the Royal Mail Company's steamer *Shannon*, which reached Southampton on Saturday last, we have news of the destruction of another vessel belonging to the fleet of the West India and Pacific Company—the *European*. The steamer blew up alongside the wharf at Colon, near the railway station on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus of Panama; and the captain, the chief officer, the second officer, the surgeon, and nearly all the crew were killed on the spot. Among the cargo was a quantity of nitro-glycerine, an explosive oil, some seventy cases of which had been shipped from Liverpool for California, for use in blasting. It is supposed that one of these cases ignited, or exploded by concussion; and, as the explosive force of nitro-glycerine is said to be much greater than that of gunpowder, the result was a tremendous shock, which destroyed the wharf, with property valued at 1,000,000 dols., and was fatal to many persons ashore as well as those on board the *European*. When the Royal Mail steamer *Tamar* left Colon the number of those who lost their lives had not been accurately ascertained, and the estimate varied from fifty to eighty persons. The *Panama Star* and *Herald* gives the following details:—

The *European* arrived at Aspinwall on the morning of the 2nd inst., and on the afternoon of the same day came alongside the railroad company's wharf generally used by this line and commenced discharging her cargo. Nearly, if not all, the local freight had been delivered, when, about seven o'clock, on the morning of the 3rd, a terrific explosion occurred on board, which tore away the upper parts of the ship and blew several large plates off the side. The wharf at which the vessel was unloading, and which was some 400 ft. long, was literally torn to pieces, the superstructure was completely demolished to within 100 ft. of the freight-house, and hardly a plank remained in the entire length of the structure that was not wrenched from its fastenings. Immediately in front of where the vessel lay a gap was cut through the roof—piles, planking, &c., all disappearing. The ship and wharf both caught fire, and the latter was saved from entire destruction only by the exertions of several citizens, who got the fire-engine to work, and, after a few hours, extinguished the flames, regardless of the risk they incurred from another explosion of the burning ship. The *Panama Railroad Company's* freight-house is left a pile of ruins. The force of air caused by the concussion seems to have raised the roof, which was constructed of iron and slate upwards a few feet, its own weight bringing it down with immense force into the building, and carrying with it both the end walls, leaving the house, except the side walls, which appear but little if at all injured, a mass of ruins. It would be difficult to imagine a more complete wreck than that presented by the freight-house and wharf. Scarcely a building in the place escaped without more or less damage, those of a substantial nature suffering most; nearly all the brick and stone buildings were badly injured, but the freight-house is the only one we have heard of which has been rendered uninhabitable. Hardly a whole window of glass remains in the city, and the destruction of glassware, crockery, and such like is really wonderful. Although many vessels were lying in close proximity to the *European* at the time of the disaster, none, except the *Caribbean* of the same line, sustained any serious damage. The last-named vessel was moored at the opposite side of the wharf from the *European* and received very serious injury. Her hull externally appears untouched, but the effect of the concussion internally was very severe. We are assured that some immense iron girder nearly 12 in. deep were snapped off like a pipe stem, thirteen of her frames were broken, and knees and braces of the heaviest timber were torn from their places. The strain upon the ship must have been of immense force, and nothing but the superior build and structure of the vessel saved her from being knocked to pieces. All her boats and, in fact, everything of a fragile nature, were rendered useless.

The most awful part of the catastrophe was the dreadful loss of life and suffering attending it. Of the number of killed and missing it is impossible to give a correct estimate, but from present data the number may safely be put down at fifty, and is, we fear, more likely to prove over this number than under it. Of the forty-one men comprising the crew of the *European*, nine have been killed and twelve are missing. Two clerks engaged on the wharf, Mr. Swainson, of the West India and Pacific Steam-ship Company, and Mr. Calvo, of the *Panama Railroad Company*, were both instantly killed, and of thirteen natives or Jamaicans employed on the wharf and in the freight-house, none are supposed to have been saved; besides, it is believed, a small gang of native labourers, who had gone on board the unfortunate steamer, have met the fate of the others. It will be several days before a correct estimate can be made of the loss. Many bodies were, no doubt, thrown into the water and devoured by sharks, while others are still buried beneath the ruins of the freight-house and wharf, or went down with the ill-fated ship. The scene in Aspinwall after the first explosion cannot be described—it was harrowing in the extreme. While the ruins gave an air of desolation to the place, the mangled and lacerated bodies, or pieces of bodies, to be met with in every direction for a great distance round the ruin of the disaster were heartrending, and the suffering of the poor mortals, crushed and bruised, in whom life was not extinct, was really dreadful.

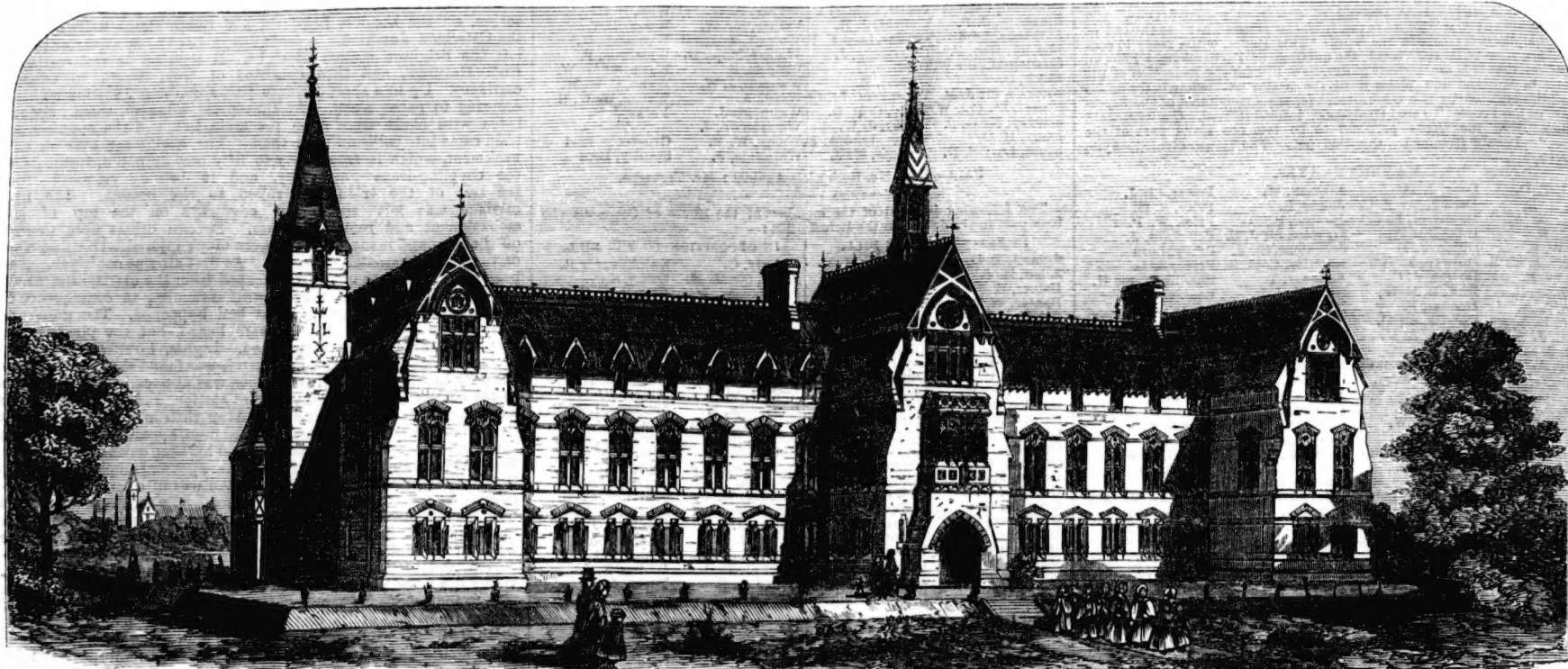
The Royal Mail steam-ship *Tamar*, Captain Moir, which had arrived the previous evening, immediately got up steam and prepared to tow out the burning ship into the stream; but before this could be accomplished another explosion took place, though not of sufficient force to cause any injury. It was supposed to be the magazine, which contained a small quantity of powder for the ship's use. The *Tamar* then made fast to the burning hulk and towed her out. The two vessels had barely reached the opposite side of the bay when another explosion, more terrific than the first, occurred; but, fortunately, the ship being far from the city and in deep water, no harm resulted. The last explosion is supposed to have broken up the hull, as in less than half an hour after it occurred the unfortunate ship went down. The top of her smoke-stack is the only part now visible. At first the cause of the explosion was wrapped in mystery, and, as no one was saved from the wreck who could give any satisfactory explanation, all was left to conjecture. It was afterwards discovered that some seventy cases of glonoine, or nitro-glycerine—one of the most powerful explosive agents known at the present day—was on board, under an ordinary bill of lading. This at once cleared up the mystery. This compound is used for blasting purposes, and was shipped from Liverpool for California. The amount of damage caused by the explosion is roughly estimated at 1,000,000 dols., which is about the lowest figure at which it can be placed.

The following is an official report of the lives lost, so far as known:—Known to be killed on ship—Captain Cole; Mr. Glass, chief officer; Mr. Parson, second officer; Dr. Burrows, surgeon; Edward Davis, carpenter; W. Pritchard, sailor; J. A. Young, sailor; W. Beremond, sailor; and Richard, cabin-boy. Also missing from ship—twelve. Killed on shore—Mr. Calvo, Mr. Swainson, and nineteen others. Total killed and missing—forty-two. The number missing from shore has not been definitely ascertained.

WHAT THE FRENCH BELIEVE ABOUT ENGLISHMEN.—The following characteristic story is told by *La Patrie*:—"An eccentric wagger was made at the last Paris races between two rich Englishmen. One of the terms of a particular bet was that the loser was to invite to his table eighty poor persons selected from the applicants for relief to the various benevolent associations of the capital. These persons were to be all of about the same height as the bettors, and to be between forty and fifty years of age. Lord B., the loser, is the personification of British haughtiness, and, being indisposed to mix with persons not suitably attired, gathered his brigade of paupers at an outlying establishment, where he had them provided from head to foot. In the evening the dandies thus improvised made their appearance in the gorgeous salons of his Lordship's hotel in the Faubourg St. Honoré."

MURDER OF A POLICEMAN IN DUBLIN.—Charles O'Neill, a policeman, was murdered on a Saturday night last in Dublin. About twelve o'clock he was on duty near Ormond-market, at the north side of the city, when he heard a woman in Pill-lane calling "Police!" He hastened to the spot, and when he approached it he met three men, a civilian and two soldiers. The civilian presented a pistol at him and fired two shots, both of which took effect in the stomach. The assassin then ran away with his companions. O'Neill pursued as long as he was able, crying "Stop the murderer!" But he soon became exhausted from loss of blood, and, falling down, expired almost immediately. The shots and cries attracted some persons to the place, and the body of the unfortunate man was conveyed to the Jervis-street Hospital. A woman named Doyle states that a man named Richard Kearney presented a pistol at her, which caused her to run away and call for the police; and a little girl who was in the lane at the time affirms that she heard one of the soldiers say, "Kearney, you have shot the man." Kearney is said to have been charged by the police with tearing down the placards offering a reward for the apprehension of Stephens. O'Neill, who had been twenty-four years in the force, bore an excellent character, and has left a wife and five young children.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Earl Percy in the chair. Mr. Lewis, the secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting. A reward amounting to £18 15s. was ordered to be paid to the crew of the Mundesley life boat for going off on the 7th and 8th ult., during stormy weather, and saving the crew of eleven men of the barque Elizabeth and Mary, of Whitby, which had stranded on the beach between Mundesley and Bacton. The Birmingham life-boat, No. 1, stationed at Calster, succeeded in bringing to port the steamer Corbin, of Newcastle, and her crew of twelve men. A reward of £6 was likewise granted to the crew of the Rosslare life-boat of the institution, for going off and saving the crew of six men of the smack Shamrock, of Wexford, which had become a total wreck on the north end of the Dogger Bank. A reward of £6 was also given to the crew of the Henry Nix-on life-boat at Maryport, for going off and assisting to save the lives of three men and the master's wife of the schooner Treaty, of Goole, which had gone ashore on Dab Mill Scar, eight miles E.N.E. of Maryport. Rewards amounting to £55 were also given for valuable services rendered during the late gales by the crews of the following life-boats of the institution—viz., Great Yarmouth, Bude Haven, Dundalk, Winterton, Palling, Courtown, and Wexford. The silver medal of the institution and £2 were also voted to Mr. John Bunt, officer of coastguard, and £12 to his boat's crew of eight men, for putting off during a very heavy gale of wind and rescuing, at considerable risk of life, five of the crew of the Swedish brig Fahlri Bure, of Sundswall, wrecked off Sandown, Isle of Wight, on the night of the 24th of March last. The silver medal of the society and £1 were likewise granted to Mr. Jno. Kernish, commissioned boatman of coastguard, at Bowness, Cumberland, and £1 to two other men, in acknowledgment of their intrepid conduct in saving, at much risk of life, a man from a very perilous position off Drumburgh Marsh, on the 16th ult. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from different wrecks on our coasts. Payments amounting to upwards of £3000 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The thanks of the institution, inscribed on vellum, were voted to Admiral Ryder, in acknowledgment of his long and valuable co-operation whilst occupying the office of Comptroller-General of Coastguard, which he recently vacated on promotion. During the past month new life-boats had been sent by the institution to Hayle, on the Cornish coast, and to Branneton, near Barnstaple. Both boats were the gifts of benevolent persons to the society. It was reported that the institution had now eighteen life-boats building for it. The boats contributed by the people of Huddersfield and Leicester are to be exhibited in those towns on Whit Monday, on the way of the boats to their stations. The institution had now nearly 170 life-boats under its charge, and the number was gradually increasing. The proceedings then closed.



ORPHAN GIRLS' SCHOOL, BLETHINGLY, NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—(WELBY PUGIN, ARCHITECT.)

THE HELLINGLY AND BLETHINGLY ORPHAN SCHOOLS.

BOYS' SCHOOL, HELLINGLY.

THIS orphanage is intended for a hundred boys, and is situated in the centre of an estate of 300 acres, bought by her Grace the Duchess of Leeds especially for this object, and is situated about seven miles from Tunbridge Wells, on the road to Mayfield. The surrounding country is extremely beautiful, the air is salubrious, and the views are magnificent. The orphanage is built with the best Canterbury chocolate-coloured bricks, with Sussex and Bath stone dressings, and is being most carefully and substantially carried out by Mr. Wilson, of Canterbury. The principal walls are upwards of 3 ft. 6 in. in thickness. The main building is 80 ft. in height, and the length of the frontage, including the chapel, will be over 200 ft. The building is being constructed from the designs of Mr. Welby Pugin, and is at present about half finished. The entire cost of the building, together with the endowment for the whole of the inmates, is the magnificent gift of her Grace the Duchess of Leeds.

GIRLS' SCHOOL, BLETHINGLY.

This institution has also been founded and endowed by her Grace the Duchess of Leeds. It is likewise situated in the centre of a fine estate. The building affords accommodation for 130 girls, to which is added a wing for the nuns from St. Leonard's, under whose care the children will be placed. It is situated about six miles from Tunbridge Wells, and within a mile and a half of the boys' orphanage at Hellingly. It is built of Tunbridge red brick with Bath stone dress-

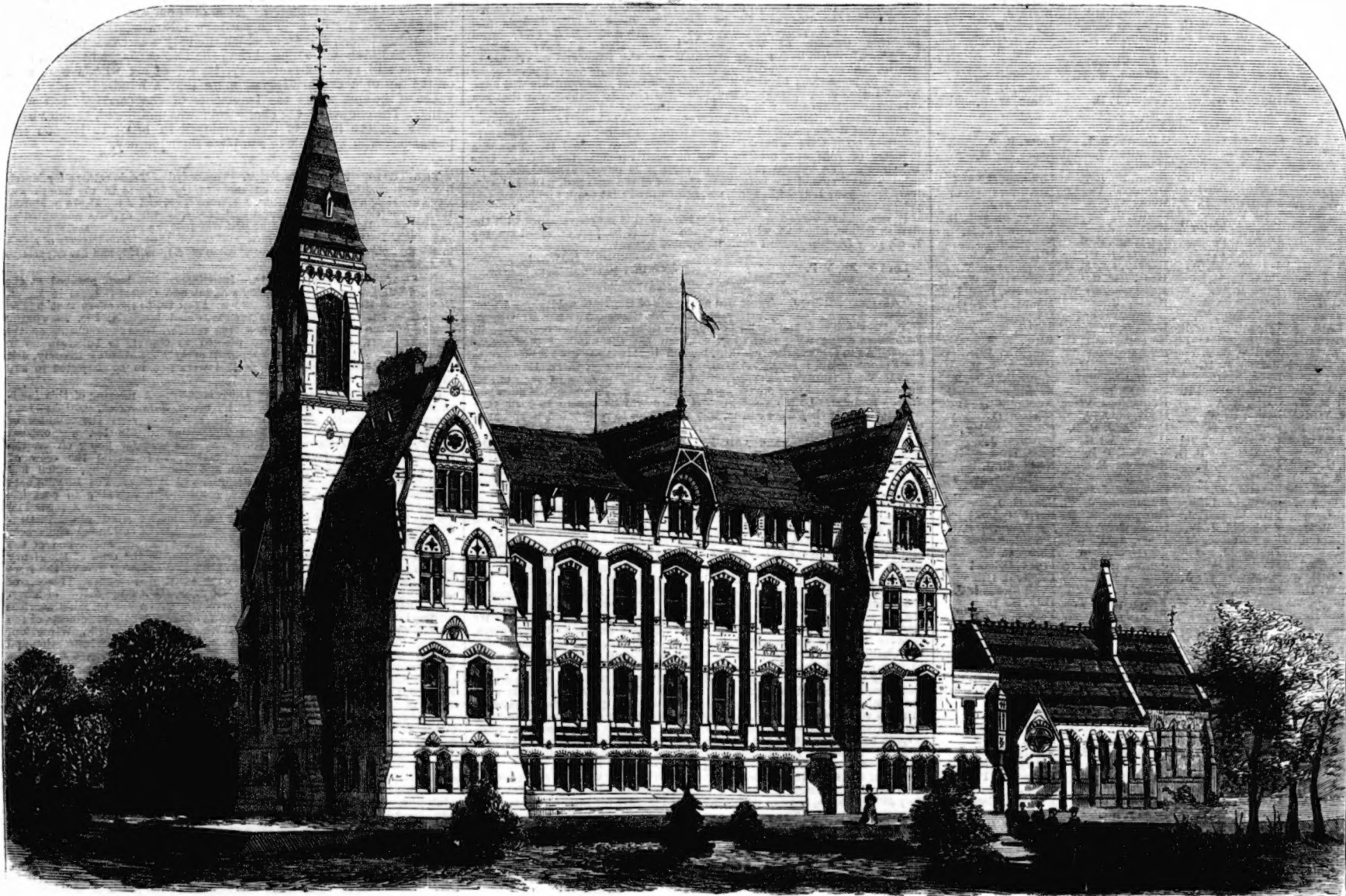
ings. The style of the building, as also that of Hellingly, is extremely original in treatment, a great effect being produced, at a small cost, by the way in which the bricks have been used in the reveals and angles of the building. The south front measures 200 ft. in length, but is less lofty and substantial than the Hellingly school. This work has been intrusted to Messrs. Smith and Son, of London and Ramsgate; and is also being erected from the designs of Mr. Welby Pugin. It is expected that the orphanage will be ready for occupation by next July.

EXHIBITION IN THE RIDING-SCHOOL AT PARIS.

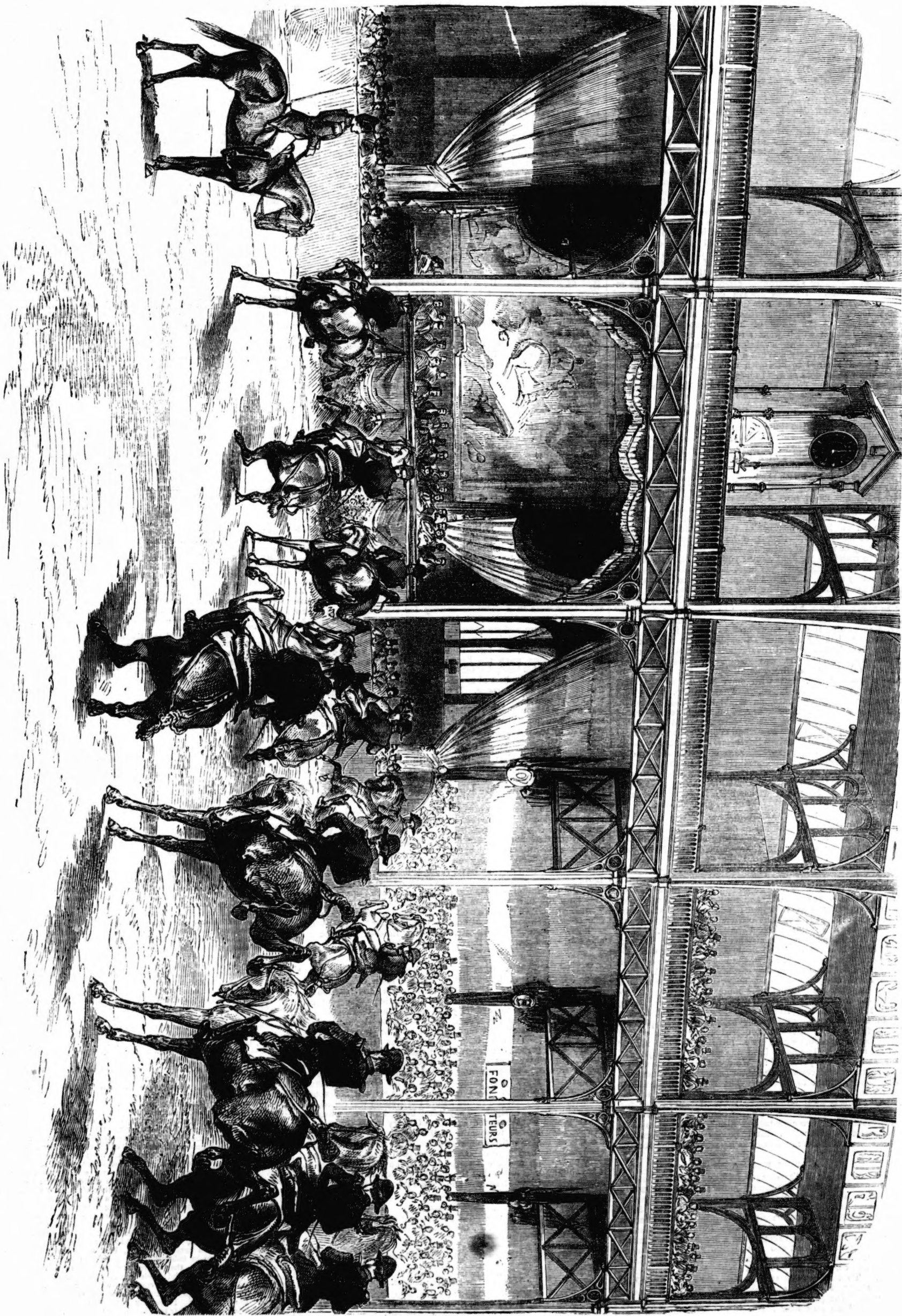
FRANCE is making rapid advances towards that stable mind which has hitherto been thought characteristic of England. One cannot now take up a French newspaper without being confounded with the long accounts of sport and the development of horsey talk. Paris itself is in a periodical fever of excitement; and middle-aged shopkeepers, who have hitherto been satisfied with riding those wooden steeds which were once the glory of the Champs Elysées—those hobby-horses, turned by a winch, on which grey-bearded citizens sat, and, as they revolved, fired clay pellets from a popgun at a clay image—these very men, we say, now bet on the event, and have a jockey flavour in their conversation which has quite superseded the simplicity of their youth. Only the other day the journals were full of the horse show held at the Palais de l'Industrie, and points and paces were discussed with all the knowing unctious of a real London Tattersalls. We have now engraved the representation of a scene which, while it is more

in accordance with French traditions, is at the same time illustrative of the attention bestowed on the art of equitation amongst a people who, till lately, could never be taught to ride except in the balanced military manner. The exhibition to which we allude was the result of prizes offered by the French Hippic Society, who have contributed 21,000*fr.* to be distributed in prizes and medals to the best horsemen who enter for competition. To this end, a number of horses were sent from the riding-school at Saumur, and were disposed in loose boxes in the lower part of the building of the Palais de l'Industrie, while the nave was converted into a vast arena for the display of the competitors. Perhaps the horses were not fully up to the conditions demanded by the programme; but it was, at least, interesting to witness what had been effected in the way of improved breed of the Norman race of steeds.

On the 19th ult. the exhibition took place which was to precede the distribution of prizes. Twelve horsemen in the uniform of the Saumur riding-school went through a great variety of equestrian performances on different horses, which were made successively to leap, rear, and perform all the pranks to which the most vicious animal might be supposed to be addicted. Colonel L'Hôte, to whom was confided the superintendence of the whole affair, was, perhaps, the most distinguished horseman of them all, and his performance of the exercises of the *haute école* was so perfect that it could only have been attained by years of practice; while in jumping his horses he was equally distinguished, going over a considerable obstacle without, apparently, moving either leg or hand.



ORPHAN BOYS' SCHOOL, HELLINGLY, NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—(WELBY PUGIN, ARCHITECT.)



EXHIBITION BY THE SAUVAGE RIDING-SCHOOL, IN THE PALACE OF INDUSTRY, PARIS, UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D'HOTTE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 278.

MR. ROBERT LOWE.

ON Thursday evening, the last but one of the reform debate, there was an immense crowd of members in the House and strangers in the gallery, soon after the House had opened, to hear Mr. Robert Lowe. He had moved the adjournment of the debate, and he now was to open it again, and hence the crowd. Merchants had rushed away from their business, horsemen in Rotten Row had shortened their rides, Ministers had hurried away from their bureaux, and anxious crowds of strangers beset every gallery door, and all to hear this notable man. This sudden leap of Mr. Lowe into popularity is remarkable. He has been in the House nearly fourteen years. He has been a frequent speaker, but only during the last year or two has he drawn these unwonted crowds to hear him. Now, how is this? Well, the reason, we think, is not far to seek. Ever since Mr. Lowe has been in Parliament he has always been, or hoped to be, in office. In the very year that he entered the House (1852) he was made one of the joint Secretaries of the old Indian Board of Control. That office he held till 1855, when he took the place of Vice-President of the Board of Trade. In this post he continued till March, 1858, when the Whigs went out, and Lord Derby and his friends came into power. In 1859, Lord Derby's Government having come to grief, Mr. Lowe became the President of the Board of Health and Vice-President of the Education Board of the Privy Council, and he continued to hold these offices until 1864. Since then he has held no office, and, we believe, has aspired to none. It is two years ago, then, since he became entirely free from the trammels of place—gave up, apparently, all hopes of serving again with the Whigs—and quietly settled down on the back benches as an independent member; and, if we cast our eyes over these two years, we shall find that Mr. Lowe's rise to popularity as a speaker synchronises almost exactly with his retirement from office. He was always deemed to be a good speaker—always noted for his command of vigorous language, trenchant logic, and apt illustration; and not unfrequently, when his temper got the better of his prudence, he would slip out a caustic sarcasm which went straight to its mark; and he was always listened to with attention; but until he left the Treasury Bench he certainly was not a popular speaker. Members who were present listened to him with attention and interest, but he did not draw as he does now. Indeed, very few of the members ever thought of coming down specially to hear Mr. Lowe; whilst among her Majesty's lieges outside the House we venture to think that he was but little known, and, except by the discerning few, was not appraised very highly. Mr. Lowe's rise into popularity as a speaker, then, dates from the time when he left office? Exactly so; and the philosophy of this is simple enough. When Mr. Lowe was in office, of course he had to conform to the rules of office. Now, it is the rule that the members of a Government shall not, without the consent of the leader of the House, speak on any subjects but those which are connected with their respective departments. This rule may perhaps not be rigorously enforced upon Cabinet Ministers; but Mr. Lowe has never been a Cabinet Minister, and with all members of the Government not in the Cabinet the rule is inexorable. The leader of the House can, of course, "put up," as the phrase is, any member of the Government to speak; but, unless he be "put up"—that is, if he be not in the Cabinet—though he may be as full of matter as an egg is full of meat, and as anxious to rush into the fight as ever young squire, in the days of chivalry, was to win his spurs, yet must he sit quietly in his seat. "He may surely ask to be allowed to speak?" Yes, he may ask, and he may get permission; but he may get a refusal, and so, of course, the members of the Government out of the Cabinet seldom do ask to speak. The most they do is "to offer their services." Now, it is curious that Mr. Lowe, though undoubtedly a good debater, was rarely, if ever, "put up" to speak in any great debate—curious, but by no means inexplicable to those of us who know Mr. Lowe's special characteristics. Mr. Lowe was not "put up" because he was dangerous. Unquestionably a man of talent and a first-rate debater, but not to be trusted—a good horse, but with such an irritable temper that, unless he had been bitten, and reined in, and kept down by rigorous kicking-strap, he would have upset the coach. When Mr. Lowe, then, was in office he could not be bitten and reined in and cruppered—as he was anxious to show the world his peculiar oratorical powers; but as soon as he had slipped collar and kicked off his official harness and felt himself free—no long cribbed, cabined, confined, and bound in by inexorable rules or politic and prudent considerations—he began to show the world what he could do, and almost at a bound became one of the most vigorous debaters and attractive speakers in the House. And this is the whole philosophy of the matter; and here, for a time, we leave Mr. Lowe, and hasten to notice the proceedings of the last night of the great debate.

LORD CRANBOURNE.

The last act of the drama was begun on Friday evening, about five o'clock, by the appearance on the stage of that well-known but not very popular actor Lord Cranbourne. The House was well filled, but not crowded; nor did the audience increase in numbers as his Lordship proceeded; on the contrary, it perceptibly thinned; and before he sat down, though dinner-time was still a good hour ahead, the benches were gapped by vacant places on both sides of the House. The truth is, and may as well be told, Lord Cranbourne's opening was a failure; nor did we, who know him so well, expect that it would be otherwise. Lord Cranbourne never shines in a regular pitched battle like this. What he likes best is a sharp extempore skirmish late at night. In such small affairs he is at home. The noble Lord has been variously called an "irregular," a "guerrilla," or the like; but is he not rather like one of those red Indians whom we employed in the old American War, who never could be brought under order, but went out skirmishing on their own hook; were more anxious to get white scalps than to help their employers to gain victories; when thoroughly roused attacked friends and foes alike, and, though thought to be necessary, were never looked upon as pleasant allies? A funny little incident occurred towards the end of the noble Lord's speech, which we have not seen noticed in any of the reports. The noble Lord was alluding to a saying of Gladstone, and thus he perorated: "We decline to follow such a guide into an unexplored country, the nature of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer declines to describe. The right hon. gentleman gives us no information, except that he has burned his bridges behind him." This is what he said—or, rather, meant to say; for, by a slip of the tongue, he turned "bridges behind him" into something very much like "breaches behind him." Our readers must fancy the merriment with which this ludicrous idea was received, and the mortification of the noble Lord as he stood waiting for the laughter to subside.

A LIGHT WEIGHT.

Captain Grosvenor, Mr. Mill's colleague, followed Lord Cranbourne, but of his speech we can say nothing more than it was neatly done. After Grosvenor rose Mr. Butler-Johnstone. This young gentleman some one described as one of "the celebrated light weights of his party," and the description is good, for the honourable gentleman has of late got to be very light. Mr. Butler-Johnstone began well; his first speech was a decided success, made some impression on the House, and gained him applause and congratulations from all sides. But he has never touched the level of that speech since, and simply for this reason, he has never tried to reach it. To that maiden speech Mr. Johnstone, doubtless, gave much study, thought, and labour, and the fruit was a marked success. The position which he gained by that speech he has since lost, and we now hear currently whispered the fatal sentence that he was an overrated man; and members, instead of hurrying to hear him, as they did when he rose a second time, turn away and depart when he appears. Let Mr. Johnstone remember by what means he gained success at first, and try the same method again. When Sheridan failed, he exclaimed, "By Jove, it is in me, and it shall come out!" Mr. B. Johnstone has proved that it

is in him, and, if he will but study hard and think well before he speaks, he will bring it out. The O'Donoghue followed Mr. Johnstone, and, if we had time and space *ad libitum*, we could say much of his speech; but, these being limited, we can only say that, if it does not rank with the best, it certainly stands at the head of the second best of the speeches which this reform question has evoked.

NEWDEGATE EXCITES A LAUGH.

And then came dinner-time. We were once asked by a stranger why any of the members stop during dinner-time, when there is sure to be nothing said worth listening to. "They stop to speak," was our reply, "not to hear." And this was literally true on Friday. There were about fifty men left in the House, and we venture to say that every man of them wanted to speak. Indeed, on one occasion, when some speaker sat down, the gentlemen on the Conservative benches rose en masse, as if by word of command, to catch the Speaker's eye. It was then that a laughable incident occurred, which we will just notice and then pass on. Mr. Newdegate was the fortunate man who caught the Speaker's eye, and at once he proceeded in his solemn manner to address the House. But the House began to laugh, and when Mr. Newdegate looked astonished—as well he might, for of all men he is the least likely to say anything to excite a laugh—it laughed the more. What could this mean? thought Mr. Newdegate, looking perplexed and puzzled beyond measure. The perplexity did not, though, last long, for either a glance of his eye or some kind friend told him that there was no Speaker in the chair. After he had called upon Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Speaker had quietly slipped out to tea. This is the only incident of the prandial hours that we shall relate. Indeed, it is the only thing worth recording.

STORM RAISERS AND A STORM QUELLER.

Captain Doncombe was on his legs when we again took our post of observation. He is a Conservative, and member for the West Riding, and ought he not to gain a hearing? Certainly, at the right time; but this was the wrong time, for the House was full again, and it was time now, as the members generally thought, for the mediocrities—and to their class this gentleman decidedly belongs—to cease chattering, that the leaders might step to the front; and so the gallant Captain, who is as brave as his sword, had, before the blast of "Vive, 'vide!" which came upon him like a mountain storm, speedily to drop into his seat. Neither could Locke King, another county member, and moreover, an ancient champion of reform, get a hearing. Upon his luckless head fell a still fiercer storm; and he, too, had to succumb before the pitiless blast. And then up rose Disraeli; and suddenly the winds retreated to their cave, and there was a calm. What a change since he first appeared on this scene! Thirty years ago he vainly implored a hearing—pitifully begged an assuring cheer—and the tempest only raged the more; and now one of the fiercest storms that we ever saw or heard raging in the House is at once chained down by his appearance. Of this performance of the Conservative chief we cannot say much, time and space being wanted; but something we must say. On the whole, then, we think that this was one of the ablest speeches that he ever delivered; but, in a great part of it, he failed to hold the House. Even on his own side there were many members yawning. Several of the older men were comfortably asleep, and generally through the House there was that well-known low, humming sound, like that of bees in a garden on a hot summer's day, which indicates that though the speaker may have the ears he has not the minds of his audience. But as he got further on, and especially when, in that solemn manner of his, simulated or real, he attacked Mr. Bright, he once more clearly got hold of not only the ears but of the minds and the passions of his followers. How they did cheer! As Dr. Johnson would have said, they were in a delirious ecstasy for the time. It is a new thing for Disraeli to attack Bright; we do not remember that he ever did it before, and we question whether he meant mischief then. He probably thought it a good card to play, and he played it; and this was, no doubt, the light in which Bright viewed the attack; for, at the time when the lightnings and the thunders were playing round his head, he sat in his usual place serenely smiling and evidently in the best of moods. The attack, though, was effective for its designed purpose. It pleased his followers. The attack upon Gladstone, more especially that quotation of the Oxford speech, was a miserable blunder, as the speaker must have felt when the storm of indignant cries from the Liberal side could hardly be overpowered by the uproarious cheers of his myrmidons behind.

GLADSTONE.

The great bell in the clock-tower had just tolled one when Disraeli sat down. He was, of course, uproariously cheered as he sunk back into his seat. Before the cheering had subsided Gladstone rose, and then it was the turn for the Liberal members to shout. The cheers of the Conservatives meant, "There, answer that if you can;" the shouts of the Liberals, when their champion appeared, "Here is the man to do it;" and it is not too much to say the man did it, and much more. Gladstone's speech is not to be described by us. We have neither the time, nor the space, nor the ability for such a task; nor is there any need for description, for this noble speech longer this has been read probably by every man in England capable of reading and understanding it. We have, though, been asked to translate a Latin passage which the Chancellor of the Exchequer quoted in his beautiful peroration, and we will comply with this request. "You may bury the bill which we have introduced," said the speaker, "but if you do we will write on its gravestone, with certain confidence, *Exoriare aliquis ex nostris ossibus ultor*" (An avenger will arise from our bones). Mr. Gladstone finished his speech at about 3.15, and then came the division.

FINALE.

Meanwhile, what a scene presented itself! We will attempt no description of it, but leave it in the main to our readers' imagination. Suffice it to say that inside and outside the House the crowds were dense, and the anxiety was profound. Three notable men we specially noticed in the Peers' Gallery—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, and his Serene or Royal Highness Prince Teck. It has been written that these illustrious persons were turned out when the division was called; but it was not so. They went out some time before, and rumour says that they dived under somewhere, and, guided by the Duke of Sutherland, emerged into some quiet haunt known to his Grace, and settled down to enjoy a cigar. For the truth of this we will not vouch; but certainly they left the House before the division was called, and were suddenly lost to sight. They came back, however, when the bell rang, and went into the Speaker's Gallery to see the division. Strangers are allowed to remain in the Speaker's Gallery during a division, as that is entirely separated from the House. The scene when the numbers were announced has been described in almost every newspaper, and the description need not be repeated by us. It is enough for us to say that the members inside and the strangers outside were for a time frantic—the Liberals that they had a majority, the Conservatives that it was so small.

COLOURED POETRY.—At a great gathering of the coloured population recently held in Brooklyn, N.W., the following lines were sung amid great enthusiasm and much grinning:

"We're near de Lord
Den de white folks, and dey know it;
See de glory gate unbarred;
Walk in, darkies, past de guard,
Bet ye a dollar He won't close it.
Walk in, darkies, through de gate,
Hark! de culled angels holler:
Ge-way, white folks, you're too late,
We's de winnin' kulder. Wait
Till de trumpet blows to foller.
Hallelujah! thanks to praise!
Long enough we's borne our crosses;
Now, we's de superior race,
And, wid Gorriddy's grace,
We's going to heaven before our bosses."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

There was no business of importance before their Lordships.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FRANCHISE BILL.—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on the Representation of the People Bill was resumed in a not over-full House by Lord CRANBOURNE, who, after some sharp criticisms on the unfair attempts of Mr. Gladstone and other Ministerial speakers to throw dirt on the supporters of the amendment in default of better arguments, pointed out that, though the working classes, as he freely admitted, differed in no respect in their nature and character as Englishmen from other classes, this bill subjected them to a special trial and temptation without calculating the consequences. The franchise to them was a convertible commodity; those who cared nothing for politics would use it to obtain bribes, and those who were anxious about politics would draw their advantage from it in class legislation. In summing up the course of the debate, he maintained that the gist of the Ministerial speeches was in favour of the amendment, and in advertising to the rumour as to the further concession to be made by Mr. Gladstone to-night, to carry on the Franchise and the Redistribution Bills *pari passu*, he argued that it would not meet the desire of the House, which was to obtain a complete control over the whole course of legislation on this matter. He therefore advised Mr. Gladstone, for his own sake, not to consent to so unnecessary and so unremunerative a humiliation. That the £7 householders were fit for such an extension of the franchise as would give them their fair share of representation he admitted, but they were not fit for that which would make them despots over the rest of the community. Whether that would be the effect of this bill it was impossible to tell in the absence of the redistribution scheme, and that was the point required to be determined before a reform bill could be pronounced to be good or bad. From the care taken to conceal this scheme it might be argued to be something serious; and, in the absence of more definite information, he looked to Mr. Bright's views, which he inferred would be the governing principles of the scheme, meeting Mr. Bright's assertion that he had had no conversation with Earl Russell on the subject for seven years by a pointed inquiry whether he had had no conversations with Mr. Milner Gibson. He dwelt on the inconveniences of the concealment practised by the Government, and urged the House not to consent to a course so derogatory to its honour and self-respect.

Captain GROSVENOR supported the bill in a lively speech, expressing his preference for a complete measure, if it had been possible to carry it, and rallying the Opposition on their insensibility to sound arguments which had been advanced in favour of the extension of the franchise.

Mr. BUTLER-JOHNSTONE argued that no reform bill could be satisfactory to any side of the House which was not produced in its integrity, and he warned the Government that in proportion as they threw themselves into the arms of Mr. Bright they would sever themselves from the real feeling of the country.

The O'DONOGHUE supported the bill in a speech composed in the main of abstract disquisitions on the best form of government, the true character of a representative system, and the necessary attributes of a reform bill, concluding that the extension of the franchise was the essence of reform; that the form of this bill was the best calculated to ensure success, and that the opposition of the Conservative party was prompted by a dislike to the principle of an extension of the franchise.

The discussion was continued by Mr. A. GRANT, who argued in favour of a bill which would include a redistribution of seats and a rectification of boundaries; by Mr. HIBBERT, who maintained that working men did not possess their fair share of electoral power, and supported the bill as best calculated in form and intent to do justice to the unfranchised class; by Sir M. BRACH, who, guarding himself against being supposed to be opposed to all reform, condemned the bill as tending to swamp the agricultural interest and to give the preponderance to the working classes, characterising it as the commencement of a contest between rich and poor, aristocracy and democracy.

Mr. BAINES, on the other hand, as a sincere friend to our mixed form of Government, defended the bill as calculated to unite all classes by doing justice to large masses of our fellow-countrymen. He referred to the statistics of the progress of education among the working classes, to the spread of cheap literature, the increase in their habits of saving, and, particularly, to the support they had given to the volunteer movement, to show that the voters proposed to be admitted were fit for the franchise; and argued that the bill would still leave the working classes in a minority in the representation.

Mr. NEWDEGATE pointed out the difference between this bill and the measure of 1832, which raised the franchise, but was called a reform bill because it so redistributed the representation that the will of the people could be adequately expressed. He dwelt on the deficiencies of the present county representation; and, though favourable to a reduction of the franchise, declined to support the bill, because, until the redistribution scheme was produced, it was impossible to see whether those anomalies would be redressed.

Mr. P. TAYLOR supported the bill, and recommended a dissolution if the bill were rejected.

Mr. R. J. HARVEY, who, speaking from the Conservative side, was loudly cheered from the Ministerial benches, also professed his intention to support the bill.

Mr. W. DUNCOMBE condemned the bill on account of its parentage, which, he maintained, cast a suspicion on its honesty.

Mr. LOCKE KING expressed his regret that the opposition to this bill should have been started on the Liberal side of the House; and, after referring, amid signs of impatience, to the history of previous bills, accepted the measure as an honest settlement.

Up to this period the debate had been conducted in a thin and somewhat languid and inattentive House, but when Mr. Disraeli rose, at twenty-five minutes past ten, the benches rapidly filled, and the cheers and counter-cheers began to flow from side to side with increasing warmth and rapidly as each telling point was delivered.

Mr. DISRAELI was received with loud and prolonged cheering, and commenced his speech by dealing with the motives assigned for the production of this measure—Parliamentary pledges and Ministerial promises. Parliamentary freedom, he contended, meant not only freedom of debate or freedom from arrest, but freedom of legislation, and he denied that any Parliament could be bound by the acts of its predecessors, adding that no Parliament could be less pledged on reform than the present, for Sir G. Grey had expressly excluded it from the Ministerial programme, and Lord Palmerston had never mentioned the word in his election address. He vindicated successive Prime Ministers from the charge of broken vows, in an elaborate retrospect of the history of the question, maintaining that it was the efforts of the bit-by-bit reformers which had induced Earl Russell originally to take up the question, since, being thoroughly master of the subject, he knew that the redistribution of power—the real pith of the question—could only be treated by a comprehensive measure. And yet, he added, amid loud cheers, Earl Russell now came forward with a piecemeal reform bill. The origin of the bill he traced to Mr. Gladstone's celebrated speech; and he opposed it because its effects could not be understood until the further measures were before the House, and, taken alone, it would produce so much confusion that, if it passed as it stood, it must be revised before a dissolution could take place. In dealing with the effects of the bill he showed that a large mass of urban voters now residing beyond the bounds of Parliamentary boroughs would be imported into the county constituencies; and this, he argued, must destroy the just influence of the landed interest. He had no objection to the reduction of the county franchise; but it must be on the principle that the franchise should be exercised by those who were connected with the property and industry of the country. In the same way he showed the effect of importing into the county constituencies the population of non-Parliamentary boroughs, and, in a long argument, maintained that it was impossible to fix the amount of the county franchise until the redistribution scheme was produced. In the absence of any definite information from the Government, he examined the various schemes of redistribution which have been floating about, dwelling on the difficulties of the question, and denying incidentally that the north is superior in population and property to the south. He had never believed that the result of these schemes of reform would be the downfall of the country, but it would end in the destruction of the House of Commons. With an extended suffrage and electoral districts, no doubt a great Parliament would be elected—every great landowner and every great manufacturer would have a seat; but the absence of its present varied elements would cause the House of Commons to lose its hold over the Executive. Further changes would follow, and in the end the House would be filled with a horde of obscure mediocrities incapable of anything but mischief. Passing to the reduction of the borough franchise, he denied that the question before the House was whether they were afraid of the working classes; it was whether they could improve the English Constitution. After discussing the constitutional principles of representation, he asserted that in an age like this the elements of the representation must be varied, but, at the same time, choice; numerous enough to be independent, but select enough to be responsible; and, after explaining the course taken by Lord Derby's Government on the question and their motives for it, he maintained that the general opinion of the country would recoil from admitting the intelligence of the working classes by an indiscriminate reduction of the franchise. Professing himself desirous that the working classes should take their fair position in the Commons, he went into a long examination of the figures to ascertain what share they now possessed in the franchise. An alteration in the franchise ought to be conceived in a Constitutional spirit, but this bill he denounced as a step towards American institutions, which, however fit for that country, were totally unfit for England. After gently bantering Mr. Mill on the conflict between his published and spoken opinions, he turned to Mr. Bright's letter, severely rebuking Mr. Gladstone for omitting to notice the insult to the House of Commons, and, in an elaborate review of the legislation and the events of the last thirty

years, he, speaking as the leader of the Tory party, vindicated them from Mr. Bright's calumnies, asserting that the Tories had promoted all the measures which had been passed for the protection and social improvement of the labouring classes. Provoking loud cheers and equally vehement denials, he accused Mr. Gladstone of propounding at Liverpool a policy founded on American principles, and concluded with an effective quotation from Sir G. Lewis, condemning an indiscriminate reduction of the franchise.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, after congratulating the House on obtaining at last an authoritative declaration of opinion from "the leader of the Tory party" on this moderate instalment, denied that Lord Palmerston was hostile to reform, and mentioned that a short time before his death he had expressed an opinion that it would be necessary again to bring forward the question. He defended the Government from the charge of having consulted Mr. Bright, pointing out that the bill only contained one of his recommendations, vindicated and explained his "flesh and blood" speech, and, in answer to a charge of Lord Granbourn, he denied that he had used out of the House language in respect to the House which he would not use in it. Turning to Mr. Lowe's speech, of which, though he deeply admired the wonderful ability, he deplored the aim and upshot, he dealt with the various charges contained in it, the refusal to produce statistics, the wanton withholding of the redistribution scheme, and the tyrannical treatment, and, in dealing with the last point, and answering a taunt of Mr. Disraeli, he described, in a passage of powerful eloquence, his early political education and the circumstances under which he had joined the Liberal party. The gravamen of the charge against the Government was that they had introduced a franchise bill only, and this course, he contended, had been taken by the Government simply as a matter of convenience, and with a view to passing a reform bill with more facility; and their concession in regard to the Redistribution Bill had been prompted solely by deference to the views of some of their supporters whose views demanded their respect. He repudiated energetically the notion that they had any desire to entrap the House into passing a measure by halves which they would not have passed as a whole. In the opinion of the Government, the reduction of the franchise was the primary object; with a good franchise, redistribution was a secondary matter. With regard to the course of the Government, he denied that he had ever suggested that the Redistribution Bill should be postponed till another year; they had simply declined to go on with it until the Franchise Bill was secure, which might occur at any stage. Their object was to draw a distinction between those who supported and those who objected to the reduction of the franchise. With those who had a common design with themselves they would not be disposed to quarrel on a matter of detail, nor were they asking the House to commit itself on any detail of the bill—not even on the particular limit of the franchise, though from the figure they had fixed they could not themselves depart. The point to be decided now was the reduction of the franchise, and this within proper limits was a good measure in itself, would strengthen the institutions of the country, and would supply the House of Commons with many valuable members. He expatiated at length on the virtues of the working classes, which fitted them for the franchise, laying stress on their patient and patriotic conduct in the cotton distress, and, after contrasting the varying arguments by which the amendment had been supported, he concluded by an eloquent warning to the Opposition that, however this battle might go, they were fighting against time, and must be conquered in the end.

It was five minutes past three when Mr. Gladstone sat down, having spoken just over two hours, and the division was then taken in a scene of unparalleled excitement. The House was densely crowded, no spot from which the Speaker could be heard putting the question was unoccupied, and when the voices were called the responsive "Ayes" and "Noes" might have been heard far beyond the precincts of the House.

The division lasted twenty minutes, and when Mr. Brand, the Government teller, took the paper containing the numbers in hand, the Ministerialists loudly cheered him, but their cheers were speedily drowned by the loud and repeated applause of the Opposition when the numbers were made known. The division was—

For the second reading	318
Against it	313
Majority for the Government	5

The bill was read a second time, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, I propose to fix the Committee for Monday, and will then state the order of business.

MONDAY, APRIL 30.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Chelmsford laid on the table a bill to amend the law relating to Sunday trading; and the Public Offices Site Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ELECTION COMMITTEES.

The Select Committees on the Wakefield and Banbury petitions reported that Mr. Leatham had been duly elected for the former, and Mr. Samuelson for the latter borough. The Committee on the King's County petition also reported that Sir P. O'Brien, the sitting member, had been duly elected.

NEW WRITS.

On the motion of Mr. Brand, a new writ was ordered for the election of a member for Sandwich, in the room of Lord G. Paget, resigned; for Reading, in the room of Mr. Lettice, appointed a Civil Lord of the Admiralty. On the motion of Colonel Taylor, a new writ was ordered for the election of a member for North Devon, in the room of Mr. Trevelyan, called to the House of Peers by the death of his father, Lord Clinton.

REFORM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

The CHANCELLOR of EXCHEQUER rose and stated, amid loud cheers from the Ministerial benches, that the Government did not see in the division any reason or warning against persisting in the effort they were engaged in to amend the representation of the people. Passing over for the moment the small numerical difference between the majority and the minority, he defined the situation as understood by the Government to be this—that one moiety of the House was ready to consider the Franchise Bill on the understanding which existed before the second reading—that the bill for the redistribution of seats and the Scotch and Irish Reform Bills should be produced before going into Committee; and the other moiety, while not unwilling to consider the Franchise Bill—for the second reading, when it became the main question, was acquiescent in without a dissentient voice—interposed the condition that it should have before it the whole plan of reform. Under these circumstances the Government deemed it to be their duty to lose no time in producing the redistribution scheme and the bills for Scotland and Ireland, and, as Thursday had been retained for the financial statement, leave would be asked to introduce them on Monday next. He would fix the committee of the Franchise Bill for that day, not with a view of proceeding with that stage, but because before that date the Government would not be in a position to state when they would ask the House to go into Committee. Mr. Gladstone also added that on Thursday he would state what the Government meant to do in reference to the Church-rates Bill.

Mr. H. BAILEY asked whether the two bills would be embodied in one. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER declined to say anything which could fetter the House or the Government on this point until the redistribution scheme was produced.

Mr. WHITESIDE asked whether the Irish reform bill would comprise both an extension of the franchise and a redistribution of seats, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer created much laughter by his guarded reply that it was intended that the bill should be a complete measure.

In answer to further questions from Sir L. Paik and Sir J. Ferguson, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Government would give the House ample time to consider the redistribution scheme before going on with the Franchise Bill; and, with regard to the progress of the Scotch bill, he declined to give any pledge except that it would be brought in on Monday.

Mr. BOUYERIE made some general remarks on the present position of the subject, approving the course taken by the Government and expressing an opinion that, as both sides of the House had agreed to the principle of a reduction of the franchise, a favourable opportunity was afforded of settling the question, if the redistribution scheme should turn out to be fair and well considered, and did justice to the claims, not only of the unrepresented towns, but also of the under-represented counties. No doubt, apprehensions on this point had prompted a great part of the resistance to the Franchise Bill; and, while reminding the Government of Mr. Butler-Johnstone's sound warning that no measure could pass which did not conciliate a portion, at least, of the Opposition, he exhorted the Conservative party to embrace this opportunity of settling this question, and not leave it longer in the hands of the Liberals as a stick to beat them with at any convenient opportunity. He admitted that the Government had originally made a mistake, and pointed out that by the standing orders both bills could be referred to the same Committee, or could be welded into one bill.

Mr. WHITE expressed his surprise that, after the celebrated "stand or fall" declaration, so miserable a majority should not have produced a resignation. After the decision of the Government on this point, and after some expressions in Mr. Gladstone's speech, he pressed for an understanding whether, if any important alteration were made in Committee—if the 27 franchise, for instance, were raised to 28—the Government would deem it fatal to the bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER explained that by "standing or falling" the Government meant that while the bill stood they stood, and when it fell they would fall, adding that as yet the bill had not fallen. He denied that in any part of his speech he had conveyed an intimation as to what would happen if an alteration were made in the bill, and protested against any inference being drawn.

After some remarks from Captain VIVIAN and Lord J. MANNERS, the House went into Committee of Supply.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (IRELAND). Mr. C. FORTESCUE, in moving for leave to introduce a bill to amend the law of landlord and tenant in Ireland, after a brief retrospect of former legislation, and pointing out the difference between England and Ireland which rendered special legislation necessary, proceeded to explain the

reasons why Mr. Cardwell's Act of 1860 had failed. He then described the changes which it was proposed to make in that Act, relieving it from the over-careful precautions and the numerous applications to courts of law which impeded its operation. The bill would give compensation to tenants (in the absence of a contract or a lease for thirty-one years) for improvements made without the consent of the landlords to the extent of the increased letting value of land, but with a limitation of £5 per acre, and, in point of time, with a limitation of forty-one years for buildings and thirty-one years for other improvements. The amount would be fixed by a valuator appointed by the Commissioners of Public Works, with an appeal to the chairman of Quarter Sessions.

After some remarks from Lord NAAS and other hon. members, the bill was brought in and read a first time.

TUESDAY, MAY 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the Law of Capital Punishment Amendment Bill, which is based upon the report of a Royal Commission. The noble and learned Lord explained that the bill retained the punishment of death for murder; but placed the offence in two classes—namely, murder in the first degree, punishable with death, and murder in the second degree, which need not necessarily be so punished. The former included deliberate murder, in which there could be no doubt as to the intention; the latter, murder committed for facilitating escape from the consequences of other crimes and upon officers of the peace in the execution of their duty. One provision in the bill would give the Judges power to record the judgment without pronouncing sentence; and the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners were also adopted with respect to infanticide and to public executions, the scenes at which were so disgraceful that some attempt was absolutely necessary to put an end to them.

The bill, after some discussion, was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Mr. BOUYERIE moved an address to the Queen for the issue of a Royal Commission to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices at the election for the borough of Totnes.

After some observations from Mr. Baxter, Colonel Edwards, and other hon. members,

Sir G. GREY expressed his approval of the motion, being of opinion that where an Election Committee had reported that they had reason to believe corrupt practices prevailed, a Commission should be issued, upon whose report ulterior measures might, if necessary, be taken against the peccant constituency.

The motion was agreed to, as were also a similar motion with respect to Great Yarmouth, proposed by Mr. Mowbray; another in the case of Helgate, by Mr. H. Vivian; and in that of Lancaster, by Mr. Howes.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir G. GREY was interrogated with reference to the Rev. G. R. Grey, the Worcestershire magistrate, who had committed a little girl for four days on a charge of stealing a penny. He said that the Lord Chancellor had not considered it necessary to remove the rev. gentleman from the commission of the peace.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS moved the second reading of the bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister. There was a long and animated discussion, which ended in the bill being rejected by 174 votes to 155.

THURSDAY, MAY 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

PARLIAMENTARY OATHS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the following standing order:—That the oath appointed by the Act of the present Session of Parliament, intitled "An Act to amend the law relating to Parliamentary oaths" to be made and subscribed by members of both Houses of Parliament on taking their seats in every Parliament, shall be made and subscribed by members of the House of Peers between the hours of nine in the morning and five in the afternoon.

SELLING AND HAWKING GOODS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Lord CHELMSFORD moved the second reading of this bill. Some measure of the kind, the noble Lord contended, was obviously called for. For a great number of years the evils and extent of Sunday trading had continually been brought before the notice of both Houses of Parliament. Committees appointed to inquire into the subject were unanimous in reporting the inadequacy of the law to deal with the traffic. The noble Lord trusted the bill would meet the approval of their Lordships, and believed that if it did it would also pass through the other House.

After some discussion, the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Colonel TAYLOR, the Speaker was authorised to issue a new writ for Stamford, in the room of Sir S. Northcote, who has accepted the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds.

JAMAICA COMMISSION.

Lord STANLEY asked when the report of the Jamaica Commission would be laid on the table?

Mr. CARDWELL said it would not be less than three weeks before the whole of the documents, which were very voluminous, could be laid on the table.

THE BUDGET.

In Committee of Ways and Means, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose amid cheers to make his annual financial statement. He began by stating that it would not be in his power to announce any surplus such as they had had for the last three years to dispose of. The expenditure for the financial year just closed, as shown by the Exchequer accounts, amounted to 65,914,000*l.*, and the revenue to 67,815,000*l.*, showing a surplus of 1,898,000*l.*. The estimated loss resulting from the reduction of the duty on tea came singularly near to what was estimated. The estimated loss was 1,888,000*l.*, while the actual loss was 1,871,000*l.*. There was one item of income, which was of a very satisfactory character—namely, the penny income tax, the sum received from this source having largely increased. It could not be expected that there would be any large reduction in the duty for fire insurance. The estimated loss from this duty last year was 200,000*l.*; the actual loss was 275,000*l.*. If the subject was to be dealt with by Parliament it would be premature to say anything on it on the present occasion, and if it was to be dealt with hereafter, he frankly owned that he thought it would be necessary to abandon all hope of its being any considerable source of revenue. The estimated revenue for the malt duty had been 5,820,000*l.*, but the actual income had been 6,410,000*l.*. The total amount for spirits, stated in round numbers, had been 6,400,000*l.*, which was possibly the largest sum ever received from one single commodity. The Exchequer balance had been reduced in the course of the year, but it was not inconveniently low. The total estimated expenditure for the current year was 66,250,000*l.*, or an increase of 78,000*l.* over that of last year. The estimated revenue amounted to 67,575,000*l.*, showing a probable surplus of 1,325,000*l.*. The estimated revenue from Customs was 21,400,000*l.*; Excise, 19,750,000*l.*; Stamps, 9,450,000*l.*; Assessed Taxes and Land Tax, 3,400,000*l.*; Income Tax, 5,700,000*l.*; Post Office, 4,450,000*l.*; Miscellaneous receipts, 1,800,000*l.*. He proposed to reduce the duty on timber, the revenue from which had very largely increased, and to equalise the duty on wine in bottle and wine in wood. There were two charges on wine: wine above the alcoholic strength of 26 deg. was charged at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.*, but under 26 deg. the charge was only 1*s.* a gallon. The loss from this cause would amount to 58,000*l.*. He proposed to remove the duty on pepper. It was a duty very difficult to collect. Pepper was a commodity used by all classes of the community, and he was told it was consumed largely in Ireland. The revenue derived last year from the duty referred to was 124,000*l.*; but, deducting what had been received for the portion on the current year which had already passed, the loss would be 112,000*l.*. He also proposed to repeal a portion of the duty on locomotion. There was at present a rate on omnibuses of a penny for every mile run. That duty it was proposed to reduce to a farthing per mile. The loss that would result from this would be 50,000*l.* a year; but as the reduced rates could only take place after the 2nd of July, the loss for 1866-7 would be 61,000*l.*. He did not propose to interfere with the duty derivable from railways, which amounted to 459,000*l.*, or the duty on hackney carriages, but to reduce the charges on carriages drawn by one, two, four, or more horses. The loss would be 20,000*l.*, but in the present year only 15,000*l.*. After some further remarks, he said he thought the time had come when it was fitting that Parliament should deal with the question of the National Debt. The course or movement of the National Debt could easily be set forth. It consisted of three heads. First, the permanent or funded debt; secondly, the unfunded debt; and thirdly, the outstanding sums. The total amount of the National Debt at the close of French war turned 900 millions. In 1840 it was 897 millions. In 1854 it reached the lowest point since the French war—namely, 800,515,000*l.*. In 1857 it rose to 831 millions. In 1859 it had decreased to 825 millions, and now in 1866 it stood at 798,969,000*l.*. The rate at which it had been reduced since 1815 had just been about three millions a year. In looking to this question it was well to look at the debt of other countries. Adverting to that of America, he said the debt of that country had grown at the remarkable rate of 200 millions sterling last year, and the charge on that amount was about 22 millions. But he did not think their large debt would constitute any difficulty to the American Government. If they displayed the resolution which they had previously shown it would be disposed of in a very few years without any serious inconvenience to the country. The revenue of America was 90 millions sterling—the largest sum which was ever received by any Government. After

stating the amounts of the National Debt of several European nations, he said that the gross amount was not less than 1500 millions. It had risen to this large sum in a time of peace, and year by year it was getting greater. In regard to our own country, he said we were in a commercial era, the progress of which it was futile to attempt to comprehend. But, great as was the height to which it had reached, it was their duty to estimate probabilities as well as they could. For a considerable time they were to look for a considerable increase of the commerce of this country. The great agents of produce were three:—first, landed and fixed capital; secondly, movable capital; and, thirdly, labour. The commerce of this country, with 30 millions of people, was as great as France and America with their 70 millions of people. How did this arise? It was in consequence of our cheap coal supply. It had been a subject of interesting discussion how long the supply would last. Assuming that we could not continue to get our coals at a rate such as the present, what would be the result? If we could not get it cheaper than other countries we could not maintain our commercial superiority over them. Every year the quantity used in Britain exceeded that of the former year by 3-7 per cent. If it was true that a time might come when we could not obtain cheap coal in unlimited quantities, it was their duty to provide against it, and the way to do so was to get rid of our incumbrances. A proposal which he had often heard was to convert perpetual into terminable annuities, but if they went into the City for them. What he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) proposed was to square the account with the savings-banks trustees by transference of their money into cash. This would cause a loss of 502,000*l.* in 1866-7; but in 1867-8 annuities amounting to 680,000*l.* would expire, and in that year, consequently, the additional loss would be comparatively insignificant. After that transference was effected, what was not required by the savings-banks trustees he proposed to reinvest from year to year. The net result from this would be that in 1885 the National Debt would be decreased to the extent of 494 millions. He would lay resolutions on this subject before the House. After some further observations, the Chancellor of the Exchequer resumed his seat, amid loud cheers.

After a short conversation, in which several questions were asked by Mr. Watkin, Mr. Hubbard, Lord Stanley, and other hon. members, the resolution was agreed to.

The Exchequer and Audit Departments Bill, as amended, was reported and agreed to.

OBITUARY.

LORD GLENELG.—The death was announced, a few days ago, of Lord Glenelg, who many years since, as Mr. Charles Grant, held a conspicuous position amongst the statesmen of this country. Born at Kildare, in the Presidency of Bengal, in 1778, he was brought in early life to England, and was entered at Magdalene College, Cambridge, having had amongst his college contemporaries the late Vice-Chancellor Shadwell; Sir Robert Grant, afterwards Governor-General of Bombay; Lord Canterbury, late Speaker of the House of Commons; Dr. Stanley, late Bishop of Norwich; Dr. Sumner, late Archbishop of Canterbury; Dr. Tatham, late Master of St. John's; and the present Duke of Northumberland. He took his degree of B.A. in 1801, when he was fourth wrangler—the senior wrangler of the year being the Rev. Henry Martyn, the well-known Indian missionary, between whom and Mr. Grant a close intimacy existed. He was Chancellor's medalist in 1801, and member's prizeman in the same year, in conjunction with Henry Martyn. Leaving Cambridge, he applied himself to the study of the law, and in 1807 was called to the Bar by the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn. In 1813, the Earl of Liverpool, who was the Prime Minister, appointed him a Lord of the Treasury, and this position he held until 1819, when Lord Liverpool made him Chief Secretary for Ireland. He remained at that post until 1823, when he was transferred to the Board of Trade, and discharged the duties of its Vice-President until 1827. On Mr. Canning becoming Prime Minister, in 1827, Mr. Grant was advanced to the presidency of the Board of Trade and the treasuryship of the Navy, and remained there until January, 1828. In 1830, under Earl Grey's Administration, he became President of the Board of Control, an office which he held until 1834, when Lord Melbourne, who then became Prime Minister, appointed him Secretary of State for the Colonies. This appointment he held until January, 1839, when he was succeeded by Lord John Russell. It was in 1835, while War and Colonial Secretary, that he was raised to the Peerage. In the House of Commons he sat for the Fortrose Burghs, from 1807 to 1818, and for Inverness-shire from 1818 to 1835, when he went to the House of Lords. By his death a pension of £2000 a year falls to the Government. The family is a junior branch of the Grants of Grant, N.B., springing from a second son of that line, who obtained lands in Glenurquhart, from James IV. in 1509. There is no successor to the title.

LORD AND LADY RIVERS.—The death of Lord Rivers occurred on Saturday last, shortly before midnight, and Lady Rivers expired shortly before eight on Monday morning, after a short illness, from congestion of the lungs. The late Lord Rivers was born in July, 1810, and succeeded his father, Horace William Beckford, third Baron, in January, 1831. In February, 1833, he married Lady Susan Georgiana Leveson-Gower, eldest daughter of Granville, first Earl Granville, and consequently sister of the present Earl Granville, Lord President of the Council. Her Ladyship was born in October, 1810, and by her marriage with Lord Rivers had a numerous family. An only son, Henry Peter Pitt Rivers, born in April, 1849, and five daughters are surviving—namely, the Hon. Susan Harriet, born 1835; the Hon. Fanny Georgiana, born 1836, married to the Marquis of Carmarthen; the Hon. Blanche Caroline, born 1840; the Hon. Gertrude Emily, born in 1852; and the Hon. Constance Elizabeth, born in 1854. The late Lord Rivers was a Lord in Waiting to her Majesty from 1841 to 1846, and from 1853 to 1856, and was reappointed in June, 1859. His Lordship was a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Dorset and Colonel-Commandant of the Dorsetshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA.—On Sunday a young man, named Magnus Sanderson, while in a boat off the New Quay, North Shields, picked up a bottle in the harbour floating in from the sea upon the flood tide, which contained the following message, written upon paper which had a yellow appearance:—"Dec. 14, 1862.—My dear Wife and Family.—I now write you these few lines to let you know that our ship, the Star of the West, of Liverpool, is about going down. We lost three men last night. Both pumps choked. Ten feet of water in the hold. Our mate has his leg broken. This was thrown over on the Dogger Bank. Captain H. G. Mickelson. (It is not very legible, possibly Nicholson.) Farewell. I will meet you in Heaven."

THE QUEEN'S LETTER TO MR. PEABODY.—The graceful acknowledgment by the Queen of Mr. Peabody's munificent donation to the London poor is so entirely in keeping with the character of that Royal lady that it will simply be cited among us as justifying the regard which is entertained for her Majesty by the American people, without distinction of class or party. A kindly and graceful act of this sort need not provoke a political homily. But kindly and peaceful acts are not thrown away, be their source lofty or lowly. Mr. Peabody performed a deed of charity which, as the Queen says, has probably no parallel. And the British Sovereign has acknowledged the gift in terms befitting the nobility of the giver.—*New York Times.*

NOTTINGHAM ELECTION.—Something like a free fight appears to be imminent at Nottingham. Mr. Handel Cusham and Lord Amberley have been adopted as candidates by the Liberals, who returned Mr. Morley at the last election. Mr. Benjamin Simon is in the field as an independent candidate, and Mr. Bernal Osborne appears to be championed by Sir R. Clifton. The Conservatives have fixed upon a candidate—namely, Sir George Jenkinson, Bart., who got into an angry discussion about family plate with Mr. Long at the last South Wilt election. Should all five go to the poll it is by no means uncertain that the Tory would not get in. United, the Liberal party could easily defeat its opponents; but its disunion is its danger.

A MOHAMMEDAN PRAYER FOR QUEEN VICTORIA.—For the first time in India the "Khutba" has been read in behalf of the Queen of England. The event took place at Lahore, by Mir Hassan Shah, Pirzadah of Battala, at the Bed festival, in Alamgiri's Masjid, which has been made over to the Mohammedans for public worship. Translation.—"O Lord! help and bestow on her who has bestowed on us this splendid masjid, and has given us this noble building—namely, the Empress and excellent lady whose empire extends from east to west, and who has become victorious over the Kings of Arabia and the rest of the world; her whose name is Victoria. God preserve her empire and authority, and bestow on her subjects the blessings which flow from her government. O preserver and gracious helper of mankind. Amen."

LORD PALMERSTON AND REFORM.—Lord Palmerston was a statesman whose patriotism was enlightened, and who never permitted party nor personal prejudices to interfere with his calm judgment. Though happily and wisely opposed to change for change's sake, he never showed himself averse to progress. On the authority of a gentleman whom, on referring to "Dad," we find to be the Conservative member for Cirencester, and to have a house near Broadlands, which he thinks entitles him to speak with precision of the late Premier's political views and intentions, we are now called upon to believe that Lord Palmerston, while the trusted head of the Liberal party, was an obstinate and bigoted Tory. His correspondence with his colleagues would, if published, sufficiently refute this.—The *Oct.* Mr. Ralph Dutton writes as follows to a contemporary:—"The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his speech on Friday night, introduced the name of Lord Palmerston into the debate in a manner which has caused much surprise to many who, like myself, were supporters of his policy. It was argued by the right hon. gentleman at some length that the late Prime Minister was favourable to the principle of reform, and that there was not the slightest right to suppose that he differed from the opinion of the rest of the Cabinet in respect to the early introduction of a bill to that effect. Since it is inferred that those who were his associates have deserted his policy in voting for the amendment, permit me to say on my own behalf and authority that there is no reason for supposing that Lord Palmerston intended to bring forward a reform bill in the present Session, and that he certainly would not have consented to the introduction of such a measure as that which is now under the consideration of the House."

IGNACIO PRADO, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF PERU.

We have already informed our readers of the particulars of the revolution which has for some time past been agitating Peru; an agitation which had its origin in the dissatisfaction of the people with General Pezet for giving way before the threats and menaces of Spain. After much beating about the bush, the result of the Peruvian revolution has been to establish a dictatorship, in the hands of a new President, General Ignacio Prado, who was proclaimed, at the end of last year, in the Plaza de Lima. The Peruvians are evidently prepared to take vigorous measures, and they have elected an energetic ruler to assist them in carrying out their intentions. The reforms already inaugurated by the new President are very numerous; the administration of finance has been completely remodelled, and every effort has been made to place the budget in a satisfactory condition with reference to the guano islands. Every privilege of free trade and exemption from duty has been abolished, and a central court has been established to consider the evidence of claimants. Schools have been founded, public works have been advanced, and Peru seems to have commenced a new existence, which is calculated to last—until the next revolution. We engrave a Portrait of the Dictator under whom all these improvements have been commenced.

SCENE FROM THE NEW COMEDY AT THE HAYMARKET.

MR. WESTLAND MARSTON'S new comedy of "The Favourite of Fortune" is a great success. This success is the result of many causes. "The Favourite of Fortune" is a good piece, with a clearly defined plot, a carefully-written dialogue, and characters more truthful to nature than the theatrical lay-figures that usually pass muster on the other side of the footlights. Though far from a perfect comedy, it is a real comedy, and not a sham. It is the production of an author who intended to write a comedy, and who carried out his intention. It is not an "adaptation from the French," full of suggestions of conjugal infidelity, or maudlin tendencies, or mock passion; neither is it an extended farce, full of cupboard, dyed hair, mistaken identity, and impossible equivocal. The crowds that nightly assemble at the Haymarket, are real tangible evidences that a taste for comedy is reviving; and if the directors of the London theatres understood their own interest, and taught themselves not to listen too eagerly to the dictates of vanity or catchpenny contrivance for a momentary notoriety, it would not be impossible that we of the Victorian era might have a drama of our own.

Full justice has already been done to "The Favourite of Fortune" in that portion of these columns which is devoted to theatrical matters. The character of the central figure of the play, Frank Annerley—a man of fortune made misanthropic by the very possession of fortune—a cynic externally, but within warm, generous, and impulsive—is well conceived, and doubtless formed an inviting theme to a dramatist of Mr. Westland Marston's turn of thought, for

the author of "The Favourite of Fortune" has hitherto been distinguished by a devotion to the poetical rather than to the actual drama—witness the plays of "The Patrician's Daughter" and "Anne Blake"—and his admiration of the school of the Elizabethan age is evident in every line.

Frank Annerley, the hero of the comedy (which is excel-



IGNACIO PRADO, PRESIDENT OF PERU.

lently acted by Mr. Sothorn), is, according to his own account of himself, a very hard, unsympathetic person indeed. Nevertheless, in a storm on the coast, he volunteered as one of the crew of a life-boat, and saved several lives, or in some way exhibited an amount of sea-chivalry for which he is reluctantly compelled to receive the thanks and cheers of a group of enthusiastic sailors and fishermen in Mr. Lorrington's drawing-room, the incident and scene which our artist has selected for illustration.

THE SOUTHERN EMBANKMENT.

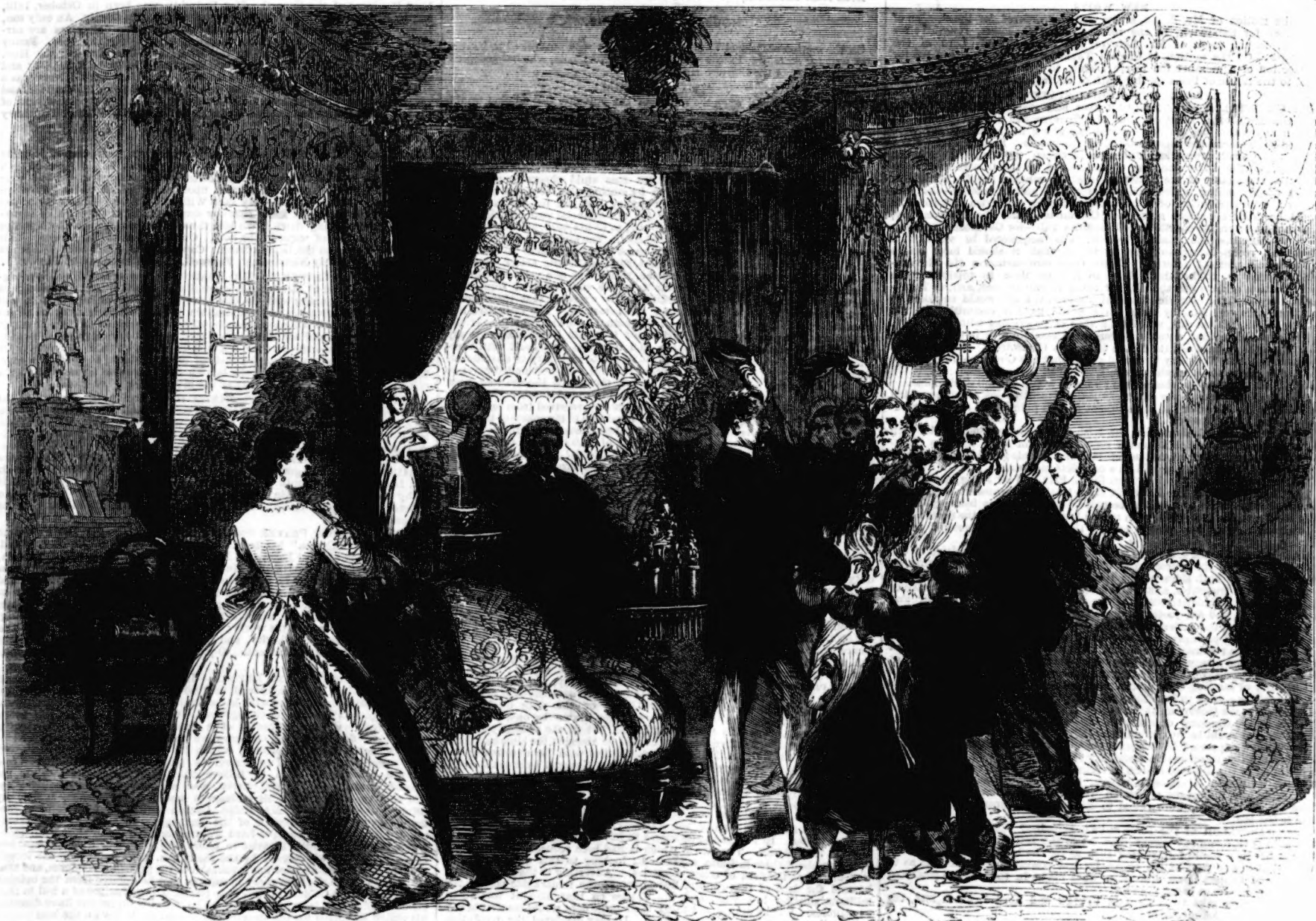
OPERATIONS are now being pushed on with great vigour on that portion of the southern embankment of the Thames which extends from Westminster Bridge to Lambeth-pier, in order to prepare the site for the erection of St. Thomas's Hospital. The works have been begun at the upper end of the section we have named, and the driving of piles, &c., progresses rapidly. A large piece of ground will be reclaimed from the river; and, besides affording space for the new hospital, will also enable a broad roadway to be constructed all along the margin of the stream. Our Engraving represents the present state of the works; and, as this kind of operations are now sufficiently familiar to the denizens and visitors of the metropolis, it will be unnecessary to say more than that the southern embankment is being formed on the same principles, and by means of similar agencies, as were brought to bear on that on the northern bank of the river. A peculiar feature of interest, however, attaches to the view of the works we now publish from Lambeth Palace forming a portion of it.

THE OPENING OF THE CAVOUR CANAL.

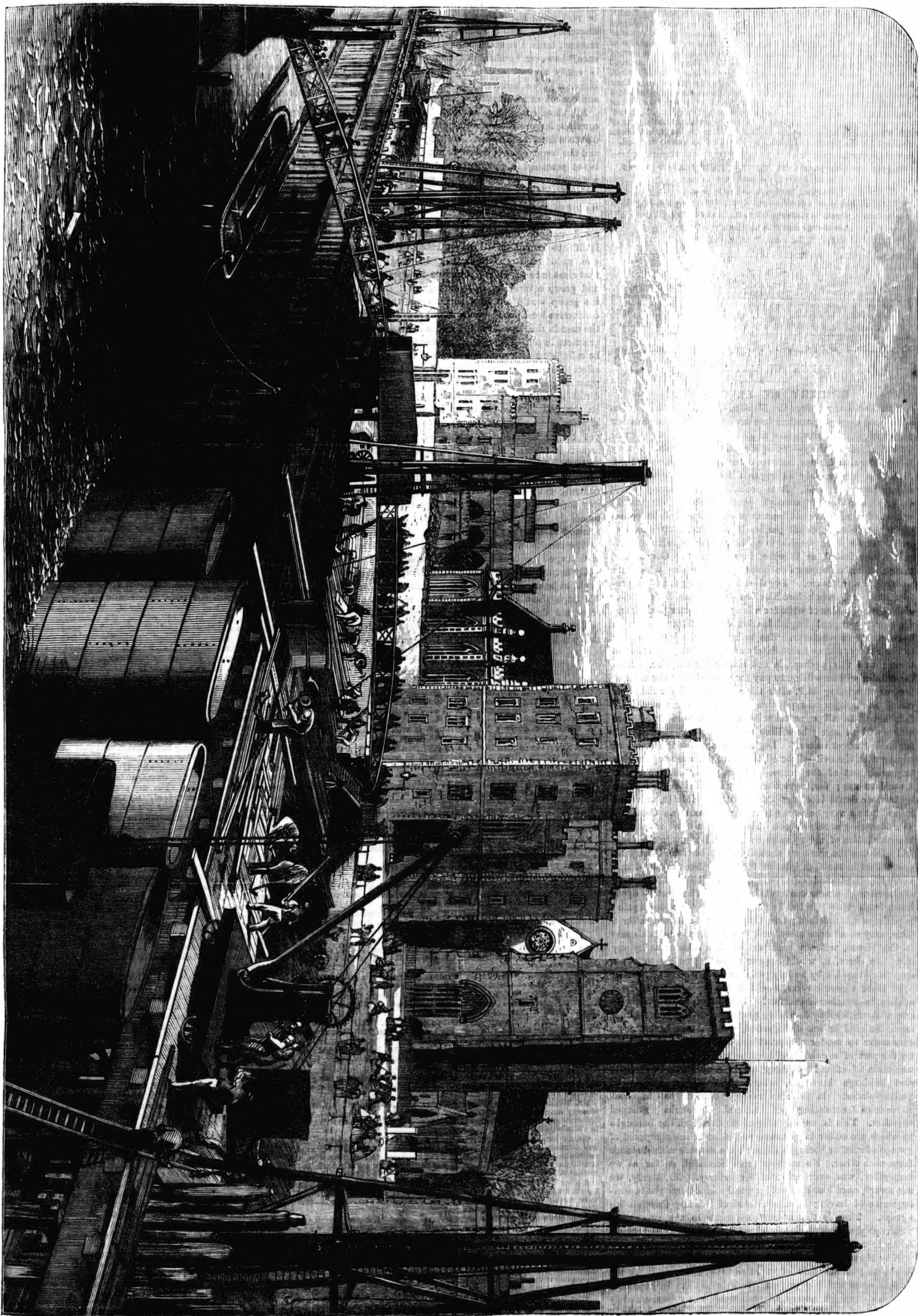
If ever the name of Cavour has been remembered with gratitude and regret by the Italian people, it has been so thought of during the present juncture of affairs, when the notes of war are already sounding in Venetia, and a calm and judicious, as well as a patriotic, counsellor is needed by the King and the nation.

The memory of the great statesman has just been connected, too, with an event which, although it is of a peaceful character, is of no little importance in a national point of view; and one of our Engravings represents the ceremony which accompanied it.

On the 12th of last month the inauguration and the official opening of the Canal Cavour took place at Chivasso, after two years of unremitting exertion which have been required to complete the work. The Archbishop of Ivrea, surrounded by all his clergy, awaited the arrival of the guests before an altar which had been erected under an ornamental tent elevated on piles in the bed of the canal, opposite the main sluice and great reservoirs. A large crowd, headed by the various mayors of the surrounding districts, assembled on the banks to receive the visitors from Turin as well as his Royal Highness Prince Carignan, who was accompanied by the principal officers of his household, and who had consented to preside at the ceremony. In attendance on him were the Ministers of Commerce and Finance,



SCENE FROM THE "FAVOURITE OF FORTUNE," AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.



THE WORKS AT THE SOUTHERN EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.

the secretaries of those Ministers who could not be present, the heads of the chief Italian families, ex-Ministers, Generals, the Prefects and Councils of Turin and Milan, and a number of the principal officers of State. The honours of the occasion were done by the Council of Administration, presided over by Senator Count Oldofredi. After having celebrated Divine service and supplicated a blessing on the works, the Archbishop, in an oration adapted to the occasion, explained the advantages which might be expected to accrue from this artificial river, which would water the plains of Novara, Vercellais, and Lamellina, carrying throughout that part of the country the fertilising stream of the Po. The notary then read the act of reception, which was signed by the Prince, the Ministers, and the Council. Immediately afterwards the guests took their places in the galleries surmounting the great reservoirs, where a magnificent déjeuner had been prepared, and of which the Prince and his suite partook. The fête terminated in the midst of general congratulations, not unmingled with emotions, that the designs of the illustrious statesman, who is still so dear to Italy, have been realised for the benefit of the country to which he was so devoted.

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SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1866.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

THE disclosures before the Election Committees this Session show that corrupt practices are as common in elections for members of Parliament now as ever they were at any former period of our history—perhaps even more so; for we may fairly infer that for one instance detected several have escaped. And this, not merely as regards individual electors, but constituencies as well. It is probable that in many places bribery and other corrupt practices have extensively prevailed which have not been even complained of, in consequence, of all parties being equally conscious of guilt. It seems impossible to eradicate bribery, when once it gets domesticated, as it were, in a borough. Giving and taking of bribes appears to be one of those sins which are positively a pleasure. Legal enactments against it, prosecutions, exposures before Election Committees, disfranchisement by suspension of writs for a longer or shorter period, and temporary personal disqualification of candidates, seem to have no effect whatever. The briber and the bribee return to their old practices immediately an opportunity is afforded them; and this, perhaps, is not matter for surprise. Rich candidates will be willing to pay for possession of the coveted honour of writing M.P. after their names and for the other social advantages the position confers on them and their families. In all constituencies a certain number of poor voters will as surely be willing to accept "a consideration" for their "sweet voices." Legislation appears incapable of coping with the evil—directed, that is, to the mere suppression or punishment of the crime. Crime, perhaps, is too strong a word to use; for, notwithstanding that bribery is a crime by law, we doubt if either Parliament, candidates, or voters regard it as a very heinous offence against morals. Certainly electioneering agents do not. The only fault, we suspect, in the estimation of most parties concerned, lies not in the deed, but in doing the work so clumsily as to be found out. No one suffers in social estimation for having been engaged in a corruptly-conducted election. After an election has been declared void, a new contest takes place. The election agent has a fresh "job" in hand; the corrupt voter votes again; is perhaps again bribed; and the bribing candidate, after a time, may stand once more, and, if elected, may take his seat in the House, without being even looked askance at by any one. In short, it would appear to be impossible to put a stop to corruption by merely penal or repressive enactments.

In these circumstances, would it not be wise to look for a cure in another direction? Instead of futile efforts to stop the mischief by decreeing punishments which are either never inflicted or are disregarded, would it not be better to endeavour to render the practice of corruption undesirable on the part of a candidate, because too full of risk and too uncertain of effect? Bribery is almost unknown in counties and in large boroughs, where there are a variety of polling-places. It is also rarely resorted to in constituencies consisting of several boroughs grouped together. This is notably true of Scotland, all the boroughs in which are either large towns and cities or are composed of groups of smaller boroughs situated at a considerable distance from each other. No member from Scotland, so far as we remember, was ever unseated for bribery. Mr. Merry, we are aware, once lost his seat for the Falkirk boroughs in consequence of having been convicted of treating through his agents. That is the nearest approach to the recognised "corrupt practices at elections" which has ever been brought home to a Scotch member.

Why should this be? are candidates for boroughs in Scotland—we put the case of counties everywhere aside for the present—less inclined or less able to bribe than in England? And are borough voters in the north more immaculately honest than their brethren in the south? We doubt it. Human nature is much the same everywhere. But the fact is, that corruption is more difficult of effectual application in con-

stituencies which are very large or very much scattered than in those which are small or concentrated. In the latter case all the voters "open to influence" are known; the necessary amount of "influence" can be calculated; the cost can easily be reckoned; the "screw" can be applied at the proper moment; and a few purchased votes polled at the critical moment turns the scale. The temptation to employ "influence," however "undue," is therefore great in proportion as it is easily applied and is direct and effectual in its result. Hence it is, we believe, that bribery is so prevalent in small and concentrated constituencies.

All these conditions, however, are reversed in the case of counties, large boroughs, and groups of towns situated some distance from each other. We may safely leave the counties and the larger class of boroughs out of the discussion. Bribery is not practised in them. Indeed, he must be at once a bold, a foolish, and an exceedingly wealthy man, who would attempt to bribe his way into Parliament through the West Riding of Yorkshire, South Lancashire, Manchester, Glasgow, or any of the metropolitan boroughs. The thing could not be done. The question, therefore, narrows itself to small and concentrated constituencies; and one good remedy for bribery in English boroughs of that class is to adopt the principle in operation in Scotland and group several such towns together. Each borough of the group would act as a check upon the others. In each distinctive local predilections would prevail, as is found to be the case in the Scotch groups, and would neutralise improper practices in all. The critical moments of contests could not be calculated with sufficient accuracy to make an attempt to affect the result by direct bribery effectual, and therefore worth practising. No central point could be chosen from which to direct operations. A candidate might be in such a position on the poll in the places in his own immediate personal vicinity as to make victory or defeat apparently certain, and yet be so situated in others as to totally change the aspect of affairs. All would be, in a large degree, uncertain and beyond management. Consequently, there would be too much of risk to make it worth while to invest money in the contest; candidates and their agents would be unwilling to pay for mere contingencies; corrupt voters would be unable to obtain their prices on a perhaps; and events would be allowed to take their natural course. In short, in proportion as the results of corruption are made uncertain, it will be discouraged; and, as large and scattered constituencies necessarily involve the element of uncertainty, such constituencies ought to be created and small and concentrated ones abolished. We hope these considerations have received due attention from the Government in the preparation of their Redistribution of Seats Bill, of which some such arrangement as that we have indicated ought to form a prominent feature.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES are expected to return to Sandringham in June or July, to witness a great cricket-match, which is to be played in Sandringham Park, and for which the greatest efforts are being made to prepare the ground in front of Park House, General Knollys' residence.

A GRANT OF £3000 A YEAR WILL, it is said, be asked for Princess Mary of Cambridge upon her marriage with Prince Teck.

THE NUPTIALS OF THE HON. MR. COTTON, son of Viscount Combermere, with the wealthy heiress, Miss Fletcher, will be solemnised in London in the course of the month, as soon as the health of Lord Kenyon, her guardian, will permit of his assisting at the ceremony.

MR. KNATCHBULL-HUGGESSON was, on Monday, instated as Under-Secretary in the Home Office, vice Mr. Baring, appointed Secretary to the Admiralty.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM was on Monday closed, and will be reopened on the 8th inst.

THE HAY HARVEST has commenced at Wilton, in Wilts.

MR. RUSSELL GURNEY and Mr. J. B. MAULE, the Royal Commissioners, have returned from Jamaica, the inquiry being concluded. Sir H. Stokes is expected by the next mail steam-ship.

NEGRO INSURRECTIONS have occurred on several large estates in Cuba, and there is much alarm there.

COUNT MOLTKE, who was Minister of State in Denmark from the death of Christian III. to 1848, Minister for Holstein in 1851, and for Schleswig from 1852 to 1864, died at Livonia on the 12th ult.

A SAILOR, who arrived at Bristol, last week, from Rotterdam, via London, was seized with Asiatic cholera, and died in eighteen hours afterwards. Several cases of cholera have also occurred among German emigrants at Liverpool.

MR. DOULTON'S CONDUCT in voting against the Franchise Bill has been condemned at a meeting of Lambeth electors, and the hon. member has been called on to resign.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has given ground for the construction of a dock at Nagasaki, and also ground for a racetrack.

MR. J. T. WALFORD, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and Assistant Master at Eton College, has left the Church of England for communion with the Church of Rome.

A NEW BOOK will shortly appear by George Elliot. It is to be called "Felix Holt, the Radical." Messrs. Blackwood are the publishers, and the book will be out early in June.

MR. SCOTT RUSSELL, the well-known shipbuilder, has had to hand over his extensive shipbuilding establishment at Cardiff to his creditors, to be carried on under inspection on their behalf.

A PETITION from 21,000 orthodox and educated Bengalees, praying for the suppression of polygamy in Bengal, has been presented to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

MR. DEARING, his wife, four children, a niece, and a herd boy, were recently murdered on their farm near Philadelphia. The murderer, who decamped after hiding the bodies under a heap of hay, has been apprehended in Philadelphia.

COUNT DE GUERON-RANVILLE has just died, at the age of eighty. He was formerly one of the Ministers of Charles X., and signed the famous ordinances of July. Having been tried and condemned after the Revolution of 1830 for his conduct as Minister, he was imprisoned for seven years in the fortress of Ham.

A NEW POST-OFFICE ACT has been passed for all India, consolidating past legislation and correcting it so far as to allow the same weight of newspaper to be carried all over India for 1½d. which in England is carried for 1d., and altering the book and parcel rates.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF INVERURY, Aberdeenshire, have changed the name of their borough; they have resolved that it shall for the future be called "Inverurie," in order to avoid mistakes, owing to the similarity in the spelling of Inverury with that of Inverary in Argyshire.

MR. SANDFORD intends, on the motion for going into Committee on the Representation of the People Bill, to move, "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert clauses establishing new constituencies with a franchise calculated to give a direct representation to the working classes."

THE FORTUNATE PEASANT, now a noble, who saved the life of the Czar is, next to his illustrious master, the most important personage in Russia. His title will not be a portionless one, for in St. Petersburg alone the public subscription in his behalf already amounts to £25,000, and, further to fit him for his new position, the Emperor has requested General Todleben to superintend his education.

THE HUNGARIAN IRON MANUFACTURERS have petitioned the Austrian Government not to grant English importers of iron greater facilities than they enjoy under the treaty of commerce with the Zollverein.

SOME OF THE ITALIAN JOURNALS state that, after the ball lately given to the King of Italy by the city of Milan, his Majesty said to the members of the municipality:—"Gentlemen, you have given me a ball at Milan; next year I will return the compliment by giving you a supper at Venice."

THE CONSERVATIVES, it is said, have determined that they will, in Committee on the Franchise Bill, propose that a qualification of £20 occupation in counties and £8 rental in boroughs should be substituted for the Government scale.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée on Wednesday, on "behalf of the Queen," which was attended by an unusually large number of noblemen and gentlemen.

BUENOS AYRES has been visited by an appalling storm, which veiled the city in darkness, blew down houses, and sacrificed many lives. The population were, as well they might be, completely panicstricken.

ONE OF THE CHILIAN IRONCLADS which sailed from this country some time ago appears to have captured a Spanish vessel. The Chilians sought to take the Spaniard into Rio de Janeiro; but, as the authorities refused to permit this, she was taken outside the harbour and burnt.

A GREAT RIFLE MEETING, open to all comers, will be held, at the Over range, Gloucester, on the 28th inst. and three following days, when prizes, amounting in value to £1500, will be shot for by volunteers from all parts of the kingdom. £1000 are offered for a competition by the Enfield rifle only and £500 for any weapon.

MOVEMENTS among the working classes for advances of wages and shortening of the hours of labour are taking place all over the country.

LADY KNIGHT BRUCE, the wife of Lord Chief Justice Knight Bruce, died suddenly on Friday week, when leaving her carriage to enter a shop in Regent-street.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has just conferred the title of Duke upon the Count Colonna Walewski. The Second Empire has thus created seven dukedoms—Malakoff, de Montmorot (son of Queen Christina), Magenta, de Morny, de Persigny, de Montmorency, and de Colonna Walewski. Of this number, two, the dukedoms of Malakoff and de Montmorot, have already become extinct.

THE LAMING SEASON in North Lancashire has been one of the best on record, more pairs having been dropped this year than for many years past. In Teviotdale also the season has proved prolific beyond expectation, particularly so on farms where the ewes were well attended to in the autumn. If the crop of lambs over the country be in any respect as abundant as in Roxburghshire, the loss of butcher-meat from the cattle plague will be fully made good. The number of twins over the district has seldom if ever been equalled.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

NONE of the morning papers rightly reported the division on Saturday morning. They all had the numbers right, 318 against 313, but what was carried and what was lost could not be known from the statements in the morning papers. The general impression upon the public mind on Saturday was that the second reading of the bill was carried by a majority of five; but this was entirely a mistake. The original question was "That the bill be now read a second time." Earl Grosvenor moved to leave out all the words after "that," in order to insert his amendment. The question which the Speaker put was, "That the words proposed (by Earl Grosvenor) do stand part of the question." On this the House divided, and decided, by a majority of five, that the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the question—or, in other words, it rejected Earl Grosvenor's amendment. After this was done, Mr. Speaker put the original question: "That the bill be now read a second time;" and this question was carried without a division. Some people said that the Conservative whips would demand another division; but they were too cunning to do this. They knew that, if they were to go to a division on the main question, the Government majority would be increased. It may be asked—indeed, it has been asked—why, then, did not the Government demand a division if they were sure of a larger majority? The answer is, they had no power to do it. The Speaker declared "the eyes have it;" and, of course, the Government could not challenge a decision in their favour. Let your readers clearly understand that the small majority of five was on Earl Grosvenor's amendment, and that the second reading of the bill was carried without a division. Nor let them think that there is no significance in this fact, for there is much. The truth is, the question of reform or no reform has not been put yet, and when it comes to be put, as it will be, probably, on going into Committee, every man who voted for the amendment may, without inconsistency, vote for the bill. Of course we know that the bulk of them will do no such thing; but, on the other hand, it is suspected that some few will retreat through this loophole.

But think not for a moment that I deem the bill out of danger, or that I have any strong hope that it will pass as it stands. There is a very tempestuous voyage before it on a course beset with all sorts of rocks and shoals; and if Gladstone should be able to steer it through without damage he will prove himself a very clever navigator indeed. For my part, I think the prospect is exceedingly dark, unless, indeed, the Conservatives should suddenly change their policy and their nature too, and, instead of obstructing, help to pass the measure, as Mr. Bouvier in such winning terms invited them to do. But is this likely? About as likely as that Lord John Manners should invite that *bête noir* the hon. member for Birmingham to dinner, or that Mr. Newdegate should make a pilgrimage to Rome to kiss the Pope's toe. No! Mr. Gladstone must expect no help from that quarter.

The next stage of the bill is—Committee; and, on motion made that the Speaker do leave the chair, there may be another desperate struggle, besides a whole host of obstructive amendments. At present there is nothing very formidable on the paper, unless we are to consider a notice of motion standing in the name of Mr. Albert Grant as the progeny of the Conservative leaders and Mr. Grant only as its foster-father. I suspect, though, that this is really Grant's own child; and, if so, it will not prove formidable. I do not believe that the Conservative chiefs have decided what is to be their next move.

You have seen that Mr. White, in his straightforward way, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Monday, whether the Government would consider any change in the proposed borough franchise—say to £8—fatal to the bill. This was not asked aimlessly. There are rumours abroad that such an alteration will be proposed, and that, if it be carried, the Government will accept it as a *via media*, and that then the Conservatives will withdraw all opposition and let the bill pass. Another report says that the compromise will be a £20 franchise for the counties instead of the £14. "Take your £7 franchise for boroughs and give us a £20 franchise for counties, and say no more about it." I suspect that there will be a compromise of some sort, and, as at present advised, I do not believe that the Government will retire or dissolve.

I last week sent you a few remarks on a bit of absurd writing in connection with the name of Mr. Gladstone which appeared in the columns of the *Telegraph*. I now beg to call your attention to the subjoined extract from the *Standard* of Monday, from which you will see that, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer is bespiced, and that not very wisely, on one hand, he is as unreasonably abused on another. After a laudation of Mr. Disraeli's speech on the Franchise Bill, the *Standard* goes on to say:—"And his rival—the leader of what? of the Radicals, the Whigs, the Reformers? of that fortuitous concourse of incoherent atoms which constitutes the Liberal party—shaking off the sense of disgrace, insincerity, and coming shame, 'the leaden spirit of defeat,' which has oppressed him ever since he took charge of this unprincipled and ill-omened bill, and stung into full possession of all his powers by the taunts of opponents, the reproaches of alienated friends, and the irritation of conscious exposure and discredit, spoke with all his own fire and passion, and with all that vehemence of temper, all that bitterness of hate, all that intense and concentrated malignity, which are discernible in all his most celebrated orations, and which, while they extort a reluctant admiration from disappointment itself, remind us forcibly of the true nature and tendency of intellect disjoined from moral excellence, and devoted to the fulfilment of purposes in which principle and conscience have no share." "Sense of disgrace," "insincerity," "coming shame," "bitterness of hate," "intense and

concentrated malignity," "intellect disjoined from moral excellence," "purposes in which principle and conscience have no share!" Very bitter words indeed, these! which prove that your contemporary has in no way degenerated from its old renown; and that, among other of its Conservative tendencies, the *Standard* has carefully conserved its powers of abuse. I recollect seeing, in the days of the old reform agitation, an effusion in reference to the *Standard* which began something in this fashion:—

A stock of fresh epithets wanted in haste
For a stanch Tory journal, whose stock of abuse,
Tho' respectably large, has run out by the waste
Which a long course of Billingsgate needs must produce.

The storehouse of the *Standard* seems to have been fully replenished with vituperative epithets since those old and less polished days. Times may change, but some journals don't change with them.

The will of the late Dr. Whewell, I understand, will be found to contain a provision for the establishment of a lectureship at Cambridge upon international law. The bequest has been made by the testator with the intention of aiding in the prevention of needless wars between European nations.

Captain Mayne Reid and other correspondents of the leading journal have been complaining lately of the conduct of the militia regiment now quartered at Uxbridge. It seems that some 700 ruffians of the lowest class have been billeted and let loose, according to annual custom, upon that quiet town. The complaint has been replied to by the Commandant of the regiment, who does "not believe that there is a Line or Militia regiment in her Majesty's service where the men are under better control." I can only give this testimony, that from an officer of this splendid regiment I learn that nightly fifty of these blackguards in uniform are pushed, one upon another, drunk, cursing, stupid, and furious, into the regimental black-hole, there to swelter and sober themselves by the morning; and that the "militiaman" is the dread of all decent travellers upon the Great Western line for miles upwards and downwards from Uxbridge.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

In the *Fortnightly Review* for the second half of the dead month Lord Houghton has an interesting paper upon Mr. Swinburne's "Chastelard." I do not agree with him in admiring Mr. Swinburne's prose, but his own article is much better, much more pregnant, than some hasty readers of it seem to have supposed. But, Mr. Editor, nobody has yet even hinted at the peculiar secrets of Mr. Swinburne's power, such as it is; and yet you have not to dig very deep for them. Mr. Tylor on the "Origin of Language," and Mr. J. F. McLennan on "Kinship in Ancient Greece," are both very good. The reader of Mr. McLennan's book on "Primitive Marriage," will know the kind of writing and thinking he is to expect here (Mr. McLennan believes the most ancient recorded system of kinship to have reckoned by the female side exclusively), and he will find this an interesting, almost exciting, discussion. It is a pity Dr. Wynter, in the "Massacre of the Innocents," should have lent himself to an absurd "sensational" view of a very difficult practical question. A word is due to Mr. J. M. Capes for an essay on the demands of working men for representation, which the majority of readers will find original, and all readers full of suggestion. I may possibly return to Dr. Atkin's article, "New Views on Light." The article with which the editor leads off in the present number is a very significant one by the Rev. G. R. Wynne, on the relation of the clergy—not the Church, but the clergy—to Modern Dogmatism on the one hand, and Modern Thought on the other.

In *Blackwood* Mrs. Oliphant concludes "Miss Marjoribanks." The "Negrophilists" are very unnecessarily chafed. Let us remind these apologists for slavery, Mr. Editor, of something which they are very apt to forget—namely, that the difficulty of those who have the emancipated negroes thrown on their hands is not of the negro's making. Who was it took the negro from his native lands? What right has the white man to say to the black man, who would be very contented in Congo, working an hour or two a day, and living on a melon and a fish—that he shall live in America and work eight hours a day because the social economy of America is like our own? Why don't these white fellows bear their difficulty with decent patience, as the natural punishment of wrongdoing? If I steal a cat, am I to go whining about the world if the cat scratches me? Gentlemen, the negro is your difficulty, and—serve you right!

In the *Cornhill* an article, entitled "Thought and Language," betrays an indefatigable pen, that deserves to be even better known than it is. What a persevering writer this is, to be sure! I happen, quite lately, to have bought the first book in which he put forth his views, and I think it is dated about 1837, perhaps before. Mr. Matthew Arnold continues his discussion of "Celtic Literature," and very delightfully; but he does not satisfy one's mind—he never does satisfy one's mind! Mr. Trollope and Mr. Wilkie Collins push their stories a step or two farther. "Armada" concludes in June; and Miss Thackeray begins in the July number a new story. There is a pleasant, informing paper on "The Seven Deadly Sins," as treated by our old poets. Mr. Trollope is making haste to punish poor wicked Lady Ongar; but his task is not easy, because we hate the punishers so much that we naturally slide into compassion for the fair punishee (pray be grateful for a new word!).

Macmillan and some other magazines have not reached me yet.

Good Words gives an interesting account of the Andaman Islands and Islanders, and a translation of the Egyptian story, 3200 years old, of which we have all heard so much within the last year. I have a question to ask of Mr. Blaikie, who writes very honestly, upon the whole, on "Prejudice" of certain kinds. Supposing him to know something of the world, I ask, will he dare to stand up and openly say (what he intimates) that kindheartedness is more common among the distinctively "religious" classes than among other classes? Certain forms of benevolent effort are more common, of course; but kindheartedness, pure and simple, is peculiar to no class, and is not found in any excess whatever among the more avowed adherents of religious bodies.

Scientific Opinion is a new comer, and, of its class, one of the best things you can conceive. Here is something interesting

TO SMOKERS.

To avoid the effects of the alkaloid put into the tube of the pipe or cigar-holder a little ball of cotton, impregnated with citric and tannic acids. As the smoke passes through the cotton it will deposit the nicotine therein, in the shape of tannate and citrate.

This is a disinterested quotation, as I never smoke. But, as I am sensitive to "draughts," as I have often been horrified, passing along the streets, to see housemaids hanging on by the sashes while cleaning upper windows; and as I once stepped, without knowing it till a moment afterwards, into the blood of a girl who had just been killed by a fall from three stories up, the next little quotation is not made by me without the impulse of strong feeling:—

TO HOUSEMAIDS AND HOUSEKEEPERS.

By a very simple and effective contrivance, recently patented, the inconvenience and danger incidental to window-cleaning are completely removed. The new arrangement admits of the two window-sashes, the upper and the lower, receiving a double motion, one vertical and the other of rotation about pivots fixed in the sash-frame, right and left, in the horizontal line through its centre. To clean windows constructed on this principle, it is only necessary to swing them upon their pivots, so as to bring the external side of the panes within the room, lowering the upper one, if necessary, to bring it within reach. The two sashes, when cleaned, are returned to their places by the opposite motions, and are there secured by the ordinary fastenings. As to ventilation, a sufficient amount of it may be obtained to keep the atmosphere of a room pure without the slightest inconvenience in the nature of a draught. All that is necessary is to lower the upper sash sufficiently to give the fresh air in a small stream. For a small displacement of this kind the lower sash does not rise above the lower bead of the window-frame, so that no draught can enter from below.

I know nothing of this patent but what I here abstract; but it would take a great weight off my mind if I felt sure that windows were so made that girls had never to risk their lives in cleaning them. I am as great a fanatic on the subject as (the late?) Sir M. Burrell—only I'm not quite sure that's the right name.

Literature.

The Story of Kennett. By BAYARD TAYLOR. In two volumes. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

Mr. Bayard Taylor's new novel is professedly addressed to his "Friends and Neighbours of Kennett," Pennsylvania, and it is certain to find admirers amongst American readers generally. It will find admirers here also, but scarcely in such crowds as flock to the genius of Hawthorne and others. That apparently insatiable being, the novel-reader, may chance to throw up the book in disgust long before the second mile-post out of the four is reached, and turn into some highway of fiction with which he is better acquainted. He may prefer the "solitary horseman wending his way," or the "by my halidom" style of literature once more to these quaint pictures of United States' small town life seventy years ago. But we know a good number of steady readers who will relish and remember these scenes, bearing the impress of a domestic historian, as well as of a domestic artist, quaint and original, and nearly new, at least to us, although the state of things described must have almost disappeared. The year of the story—1796—does not seem so long ago. It is only the year in which Burns died and Thomas Carlyle was born. But in Pennsylvania the lapse of time since then must surely seem equal to much more than a century. And yet Mr. Bayard Taylor invites his "friends and neighbours" to recognise the houses and fields mentioned in his story, and which they still inhabit and till. They may be known by occasional bullet-holes and occasional robbers' nests, and some of the principal characters must have left their traditions behind them. All this may enhance the value of the book in the eyes of Kennett. In London, perhaps, the more convivial classes may stumble over the reality of Kennett, and imagine it to consist in the glorious strength of its ale. In Kennett, U.S., however, all the characters—male, at least—devote themselves to "Rye," which is about as furious a stimulant as any drink since that famous American "Tanglelegs"—a mixture of whisky, vitriol, and nicotine—one glass of which is gravely said to deprive the bravest disciple of Bacchus of his powers of pedestrianism. This strong "Rye" seems to suit the Kennett people; for they are always at "The Unicorn" or "The Bumpkin and Plough," and in these places and under these circumstances the strong interest of the story centres. But the fields and the woods come in for a full share of the quieter proceedings, and the gigantic tea-parties furnish the scenes of much genuine pleasure. Without spoiling the reader's interest in the least, we may compare "The Story of Kennett" with "The Scarlet Letter;" but the foundation of it is almost reversed. Mary Potter is a mother, and, to use delicate language, her son Gilbert bears his mother's name. The reader soon knows that Mary is pure as a sunbeam; but the Kennett people do not know it until nearly the last page, when ample reparation is made. Gilbert, unlike "little Pearl," is the strong help and comfort of his mother, in place of the elfish, teasing sprite which Hawthorne so beautifully pictured. It would be dangerous to say more; a word might hint at the secret, and an excellent effect be destroyed. The scenery and characters cannot fall ultimately to produce an impression; but for a considerable space they are uncertain and confused. Those who know Mr. Bayard Taylor on paper as traveller and adventurer, will understand how he can paint Pennsylvania scenery of so late a period as the close of the century. His characters seem new—or, at all events, un-English. The little town is still strong in its Puritanism and Quakerism. The people are emphatically neighbourly. Large gatherings at a feast are the rule; and when any great work is on hand everybody assists, as a matter of course. Martha Deane, the principal girl—heroine are out of fashion—is a beautiful creation. She is like

the easy vigour of a line
Where Denham's strength and Waller's sweetness join.

She flows like Coventry Patmore's "River," "as calm as household love;" but yet she loves hotly, and is not in the least ashamed to own it. Sally Fairthorn, her foil, is somewhat more impetuous. She knows when her love first sprang up to a day, and begins to mark the household linen within four-and-twenty hours of receiving the marriage offer. Mary Potter is a picture of patient suffering, with a moral; and Miss Betsy Lavender, a fine bustling old lady of fifty, quite worthy of Mrs. Gaskell, and with the native breadth of the American forest to back up the character. Of course there are men sufficiently diversified to keep pace with all these. They need not be described; but amongst them must be excepted Sandy Flash, a brilliant highwayman, full of good qualities, such as charity and courage, and who really should not have been hanged. It is not unusual to suggest that in a second edition a book should be "cut down;" we should certainly wish that process to be performed on Sandy Flash, when the next occasion offers. After a hundred difficult pages, the reader will run rapidly through the remaining five hundred. The mixture of domesticity and wild adventure will be confessed of infinitely superior stuff to the mass of modern London fiction.

A Son of the Soil. London: Macmillan and Co.

This work, which is published without the author's name, must have had a Scottish origin, for it is thoroughly racy of the soil whence it comes. There can be no question as to the country of the author. No one but a Scotchman could have drawn so masterly a picture of Scotch manners, Scotch character, and the inner and yet everyday working of Scotch thought. The book is not, in the ordinary acceptance of the word, a novel: it is more properly a biography—a compound biography, and a biography of mental rather than of outward phenomena. The present writer has never met Colin Campbell, or any of his friends, in the flesh; and yet he is perfectly familiar with all the Scottish personages introduced, because he has seen many such as they represent, and so faithfully are the characters portrayed that they are easily recognised. In "Big Colin" of Ramore we have the burly, shrewd, high-principled Scottish farmer, endowed, withal, with a dash of that dry humour so characteristic of his race and class. In his wife, the "mistress," is depicted the cheerful, sensible, half-poetic, and intensely devout Scottish mother, who has again and again inspired children of the North with that steadfastness of purpose, love of the beautiful and the true, and uprightness of character, which have enabled Scotchmen to make their way, to appreciate and be appreciated, all the world over. All honour to the "mistress" and to those Scottish mothers whom she personifies, who have done so great and so valuable services to their sons. In Lauderdale we have the embodiment of those partially-educated but thoughtful Scotchmen, of whom the better class of modern schoolmaster is a marked embodiment, who have all the dialectic tendencies of their race; who are ever inquiring, ever discussing, sometimes dogmatising, but never satisfied; and who, moreover, join the kindness and devotion of the woman to the investigating and reasoning tendencies of the philosopher. In young Colin, the hero of the tale—if tale it can be called—we have set before us the cleverness almost amounting to genius, the ambition to attain to eminence, to do something great "for poor old Scotland's sake," which so strongly distinguishes the youth of the northern portion of our island. To be sure, the object of Colin's aspirations—to be a minister, that is, of the Scottish Kirk—may not seem a very high flight to the sons of the more favoured and more wealthy south; but it is an ambition, nevertheless, which fires many a young Scotchman's mind, and makes him undertake labours, endure privations, and practise self-denials unknown to the youth of some other lands. And, lastly, in Alice Meredith, destined to be the wife of the handsome and gifted young minister, we have portrayed what, to our mind, is the highest and best specimen of womankind—a pretty, sweet-tempered, pure-minded, trusting, and yet strong-hearted English girl; one who ever suggests the idea of a beautiful but modest flower, content to bloom in its own sweetness, perfect in its own beauty, and yet always seeking some sheltered spot where it may be protected by something more robust and more hardy than itself. These are the principal characters; for the Franklands only

come in as incidental actors on the scene, who, while they influence the outward life of the principal personage, young Colin, in no material degree affect his character or that of the story; and Arthur Meredith has but a passing part to play upon the stage, and influences persons and events more in that, being dead he yet speaketh, than as an active living agent. There is, as we have said, little of plot in the book. It is the history of a young Scotch student whom circumstances brought more into contact with the world than is common to his class; who mingled with the outer world, imbibed ideas somewhat foreign to his origin, won a fellowship at Oxford, fell in love and was jilted, did some gallant actions, had a tough fight with his parishioners about his doctrines; and, finally, married a wife more from pity and high principle than from love, and ultimately found that in doing so he had done a very wise and fortunate thing. Such is this book, which contains many fine thoughts and graphic delineations—such, for instance, as the account of the objections to Colin's induction; and which has greatly interested us, and we are sure will interest and repay those more thoughtful readers who prefer ideas to sensational incidents in the books they peruse.

Phemie Keller. A Novel. By F. G. TRAFFORD, Author of "George Geith," &c. 3 vols. London: Tinsley Brothers.

"When an old bachelor marries a young wife," &c., may possibly have suggested the story of "Phemie Keller" to Mrs. Trafford; but the story, with the exception of two incidents, in no way resembles the "School for Scandal." The leading event is the same, and the screen-scene is repeated without the fall of the screen; but there the matter ends. "Phemie Keller" is likely to find even more admirers than the many who already admire the author. True, it has not got that hard, stern interest which distinguished "George Geith" and others, and which was, upon the whole, somewhat repulsive; but its good points are an interesting story which is really fascinating at the commencement, a good variety of human flesh and blood, and a steady and orderly development of the plot, which latter quality is the more commendable because the book was published in "shreds and patches" in the pages of a magazine.

When Captain Stondon, aged fifty-six, marries the rustic beauty Phemie Keller, aged seventeen, we are assured that everybody would have reckoned the Captain ten years less than his age. And, as the Captain ultimately dies, not of old age, but of paralysis, with which people may be afflicted at a very early period of life, it follows naturally that the great disparity of age is not necessary as a piece of art. Phemie is an orphan: a gentleman's daughter, deserted by her father's family, and under the charge of some small farming relatives in Cumberland. She is not in love with handsome and amiable Captain Stondon; but she has as good a reason for marrying him as that which Sir Anthony Absolute offered to his son Jack in favour of Miss Lydia Languish—that, at all events, she knows nothing against him; and Captain Stondon has no encumbrances in the world except a magnificent estate and four or five thousand a year. These early chapters are excellently written. The Cumberland people are living sketches, and more to our liking than the world of fashion which follows. In the "Literary Character" Mr. Disraeli has a chapter on "Genius in Society often in a State of Suffering," and novelists are not wanting to notice and paint the suffering in society of ignorance or bashfulness. Phemie is an instance of this, and the result is fatal. She does not, whilst curing herself, make the mistake of the gentlemen in "Cool as a Cucumber," who becomes extravagantly impudent; but she gains accomplishments and confidence to such an extent that she finds a quiet country life with the old Captain a little humdrum. And then there is the inevitable descent; the discovery (kept secret from her); the separation; shame, sorrow, and remorse; and her husband dies, and her lover marries another! Although Phemie Keller loses the entailed estates at her husband's death, she is not destitute; for a magnificent property in her father's family falls to her at the same moment, and she is left living in peaceful penitence and doing incalculable good of the best kind.

There are a great number of characters and incidents on Mrs. Trafford's canvas, and, from the specimens mentioned, they are all likely to become intimate with novel-readers. Many of them seem to have been put in on the faintest possible pretence, but there are few of them with whom we would willingly part. The principal people are the most interesting, but the Agglard family the best drawn. The Montagu Stondons are in no way lovable, and others are weak in comparison; but the general effect of the whole is sufficiently like the world, although it is neither dull nor commonplace.

Captain Castagnette: his Surprising, almost Incredible, Adventures. Translated from the French of Manuel; and illustrated with forty-three engravings by Gustave Doré. London: S. O. Beeton. A capital book, not only for juveniles but for grown-up people. While it relates the most incredible lies as to the adventures of the extraordinary Captain, whose martial career is supposed to commence at the Siege of Toulon, in 1793, and to terminate in 1821, it is not untrue to fact or to history. The larger portion of the French people were possessed by that love of military glory, by an utter absence of regard for any other sort of distinction, by that blind belief in the destiny of their chief, and by that passion for ribbons, spurs, epaulettes, tassels, and crosses, which is exaggerated—not ridiculed—and exalted in the character of Captain Castagnette.

M. Gustave Doré, in the illustrations, finds a fertile field for his grim, terrible humour in the union of grotesque diablerie with the quaint costumes of the Directory. His battle-sketches are wonderful. The most striking in the volume are the Bridge of Arcole, where every face, finger, and muscle are instinct with the fury of the fight, and a round shot is cutting its way through the attacking party; Wagram, where the Captain fights the Austrian infantry with his wooden leg, and his white horse seems not only alive, but kicking; the retreat from Moscow, where the wolves precede the sinking braves, and the birds of prey perch upon their bayonets, waiting composedly until they sink in death, or, too impatient, attack them as they march; the mutilated Captain, smoking his pipe in the barrel of gunpowder, and his singular and glorious death, which is intensely national and characteristic. The Captain has fallen asleep by a wood fire. His wooden legs have caught the flame, which sets fire to the bomb-shell that he has for many years carried in his back. The gallant officer explodes. Splinters of his legs, bits of his head, fragments of nose and moustache, his broken pipe, are scattered pell-mell, here, there, and everywhere; only one thing remains intact—his cross. This "star of the brave" occupies the centre of the picture, and rays diverge from it as from a sun.

THE MAY MEETINGS.—The "May meetings," which usually commence a few days before the 1st of the month, have set in with "their usual severity." Amongst those on Monday was one in aid of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which is stated to be the first ever held by that venerable association, although it has been in active existence ever since the year 1698. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and the speakers included some of the leading Churchmen of the day, both lay and clerical. Another was the anniversary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, at which it was stated that in the past year £3663 had been received from six donors only, amongst whom were the King of Holland and an unknown gentleman, who, a few days ago, left £1000 in an envelope at the door of the society's house.

BETHNAL-GREEN PHILANTHROPIC PENSION SOCIETY.—The anniversary dinner of the Bethnal-green Philanthropic Pension Society was held at the London Tavern, on Wednesday night, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Waterlow, who, having learned what were the nature and objects of the charity, spoke fervently in its behalf. The worthy Alderman was followed by other gentlemen who had been invited to attend; and, although the society is still a small one, and the meeting scarcely numbered sixty persons, above £200 was added to the funds of the institution. When it is considered that the object of the charity is the relief of aged and afflicted persons, inhabitants of Bethnal-green, who, having occupied a respectable position, have fallen into poverty, and who, but for the aid offered by this society (very small aid at present, amounting to only half a crown a week), would be compelled to seek relief at Bethnal-green Workhouse, surely enough has been said to commend the institution to public notice.



ST. MARTIN'S DISTRICT CHURCH, KENTISH TOWN.—(E. D. LAMB, ESQ., ARCHITECT.)

ST. MARTIN'S DISTRICT CHURCH, KENTISH TOWN. AMONG the recent improvements between Camden and Kentish Town, a district within the last few years only applied to agricultural purposes, but now covered with streets and houses, stands conspicuously the new Church of St. Martin, with the parsonage-house, the gift of one benefactor, and evidencing, by its important size and decoration, no niggardly hand. The inhabitants will no doubt fully

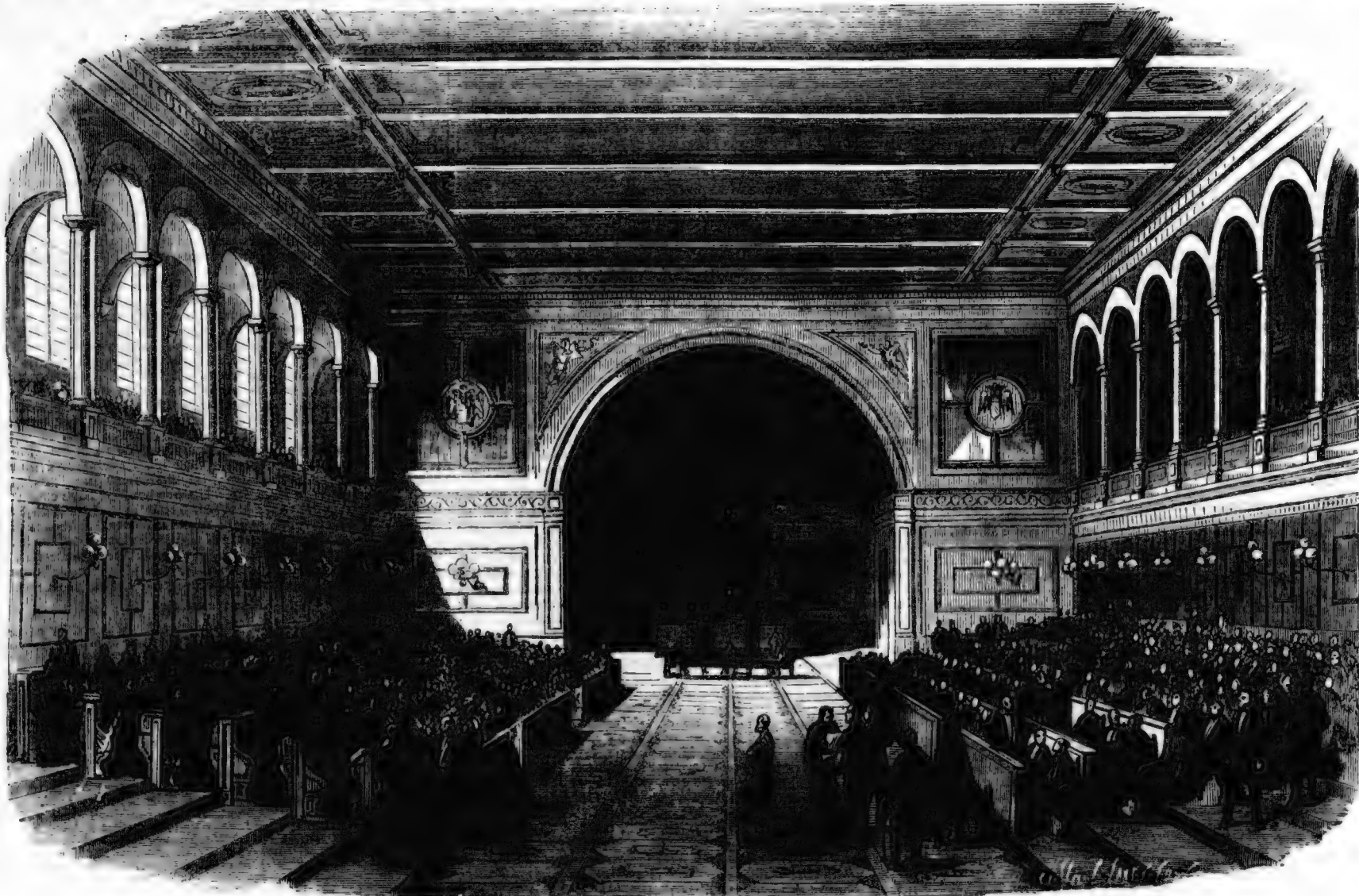
appreciate the feelings of the liberal though unknown contributor to the need of this hitherto neglected district. The building consists of nave, chancel, aisles, and north and south transepts; and, when filled, will seat 1000 persons. At the N.W. angle there is a tower, 130 ft. high, under which is the principal entrance; and at the N.E. a good vestry.

The seats are all open, with handsome carved ends. The font is

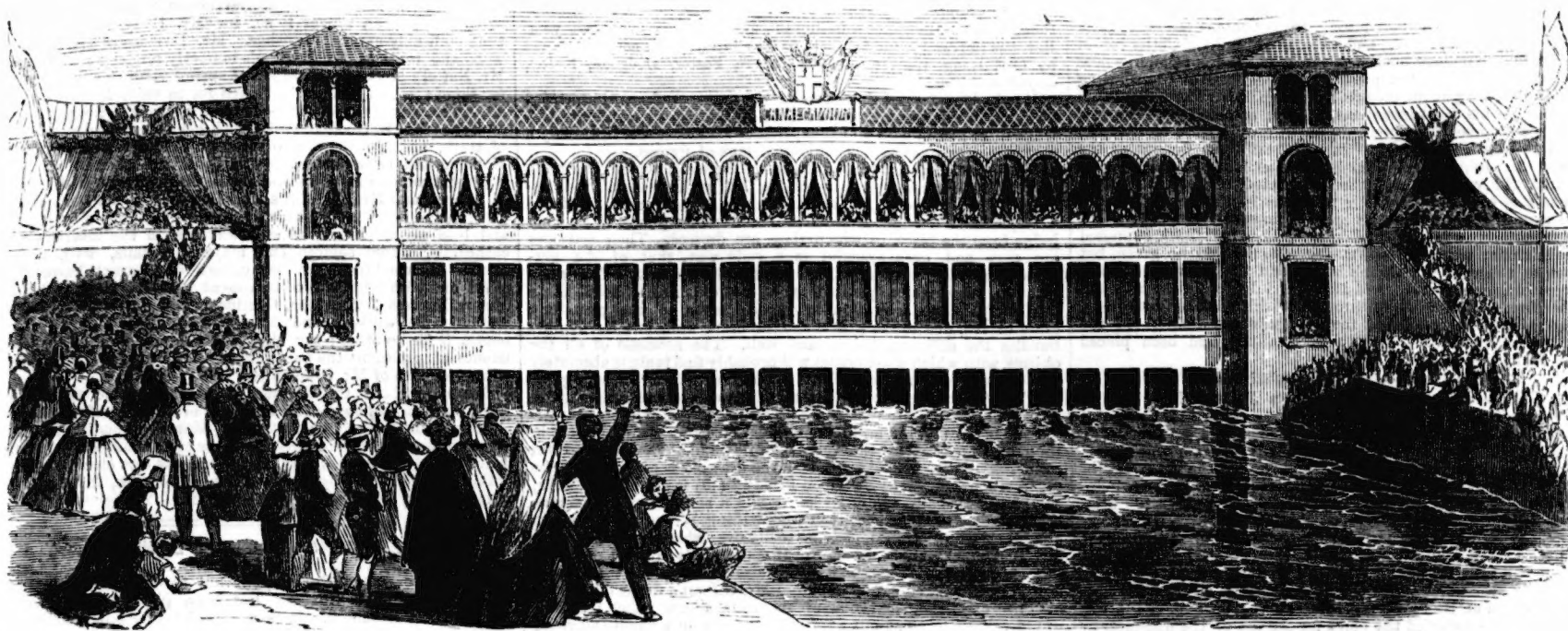
placed in a recess out of the north aisle, and is large and elaborately carved. The pulpit and desk are also worth attention. There is a large and fine organ, by Bishop; and in the tower hang six bells, by Warner. The east windows are filled with stained glass, by Clayton and Bell; and all the other windows are ornamented with stained glass, designed by the architect, and painted by Heaton, Butler, and Bayne.



THE OLD COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, WARWICK-LANE.



THE HUNGARIAN DIET IN SESSION AT PESTH.



RESERVOIRS FOR THE WATERS OF THE PO INTENDED FOR FEEDING THE CAVOUR CANAL.

The internal arrangement of the building is very different to that usually adopted, as, instead of the nave and aisles being separated by a series of piers and stone arches, the cruciform character of the nave and transept is defined by four piers at the intersection of the cross, from which spring the arched ribs of the roof, from each face of the four piers, thus forming at the junction twelve arched ribs supporting the centre of the roof, giving a large open space in the centre of the church, so that there is very little interception to the sight from the pulpit and desk—at this point the minister can see and be seen from every part of the church, the apparent space is much enhanced, and the congregation more concentrated in the position for bearing. Although the chancel is somewhat short, it is much enriched by the octagonal form and the detached columns carrying the roof. The mode of constructing the chancel arched division, and the sloping of the side connecting the chancel with the nave, by paneling similar in form to the windows, and in which the Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer are placed, render this portion of the building both novel and picturesque. There are many other features deserving attention, as the work has evidently been designed in the same spirit and sympathy as the gift has been presented. The interior of the building is faced with Hassock stone, with Bath stone in the windows, doors, and decorative parts. The roof is open-timbered, in panels, boarded, stained, and varnished. The whole is fitted with gas in six simple rings, with numerous jets suspended from the roof, and is exceedingly effective when lighted for evening service.

Externally the building is constructed with Kentish rag-stone and Bath stone for the whole of the moulded forms, windows &c. The roof is covered with plain tiles.

The style of architecture adopted is that which was in general use about the time of Henry VII., but which would be considered as a reproduction rather than a characteristic expression of that style; for it would be difficult to find an absolute precedent of any portion of the work, although a consistent feeling pervades the whole composition. The parsonage-house is a small, pleasing, but unpretending building, and is designed to harmonise with the church. The cost of the

whole works was about £14,000. It was built from the designs of Mr. E. B. Lamb, the architect, of Hinde-street, Manchester-square, by Messrs. Dove Brothers, of Islington.

THE OLD COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN WARWICK-LANE.

RAILWAY and other so-called improvements will soon leave few of the vestiges of old London extant. Greatly must the hearts of the Dryadists of the day be grieved over the demolitions that are going on. Remnant after remnant of the old landmarks of the City are disappearing to make way for what may be more useful but certainly are not such interesting structures. Among the most noted of the buildings doomed to destruction is the old College of Physicians, in Warwick-lane, represented in our Engraving. Although pent up in one of the narrowest lanes of the City, as rebuilt immediately after the Great Fire, the portion of the old college which we are about to lose is a well-remembered feature in London scenery. It consists of a pretentious stone building, octagonal in plan, with an embellished entrance and surmounted with a dome, which a poet has described as "majestic to the sight," but which, in truth, is of mean design, more especially in contrast with the majestic dome of St. Paul's; yet both are the work of the same architect. As you stand in Skinner-street the college dome resembles a satellite to the greater planetary cupola. The former is not a "thing of beauty," but it has a history which is amusing and instructive. It has for forty years ceased to be used for its original purposes, but these were kept in mind by the dome and golden globe, which are now about to disappear and leave the record of their existence to the chronicler of the sundry and manifold changes in the scenery and aspect of the metropolis.

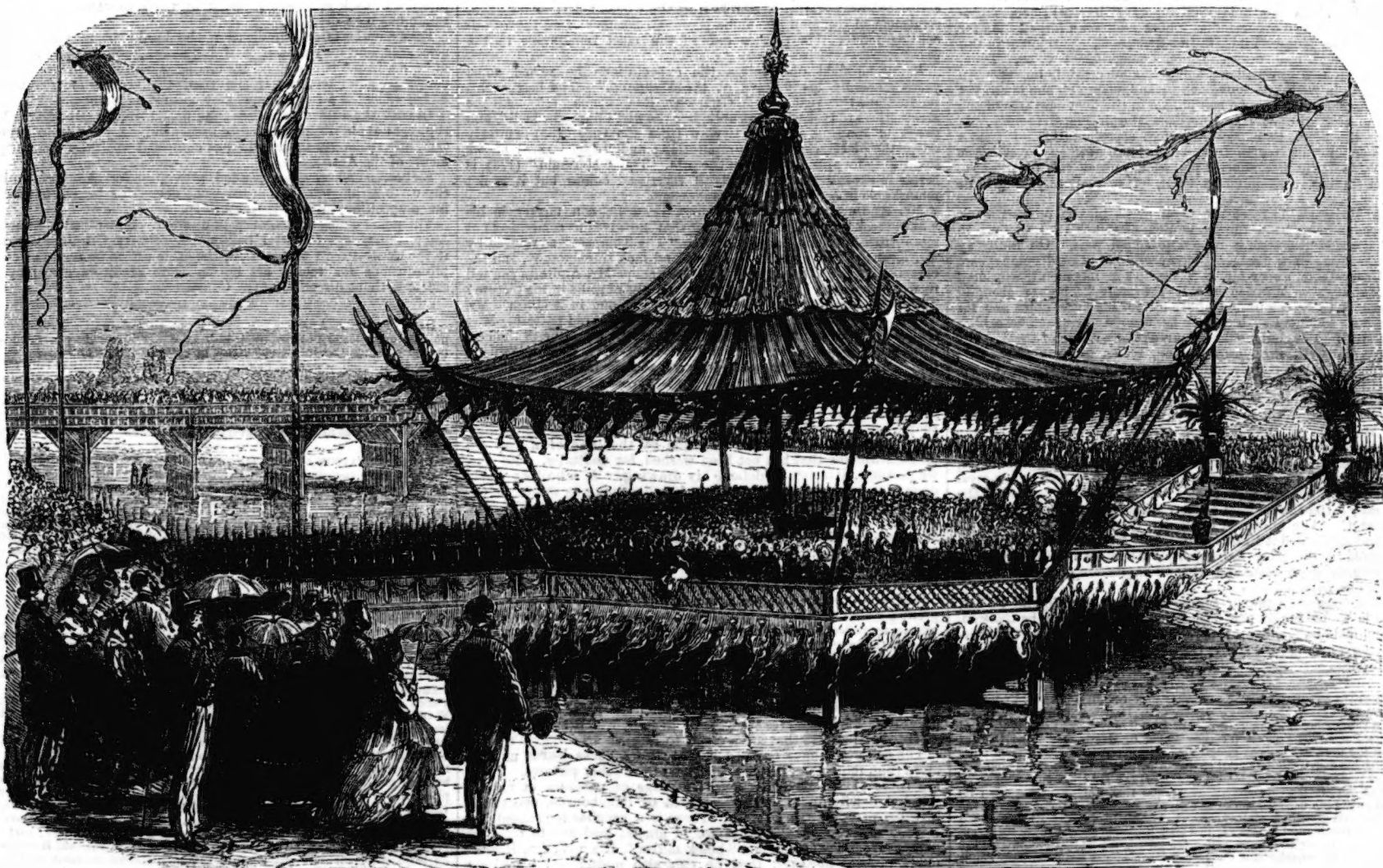
The College of Physicians have been somewhat migratory since their foundation, nearly three centuries and a half since, in Knight-rider-street. Thence they removed to a house at Amen-corner, where Harvey built, in the adjoining garden, a museum. The college and museum buildings were destroyed in the Great Fire,

after which the houseless members met at the President's until a new building was erected for their use. The site of the house of the Earls of Warwick was hard by Amen-corner, and upon a portion of this ground, on the west side of the lane, Sir Christopher Wren built for the physicians a new college, which he commenced in 1647, but did not complete until 1689. The site was recommended by its being handy to that of the former college; though the shambles of Warwick-lane at the present day are anything but suggestive of the blooming apple-orchards of this part of the town some five centuries since. The physicians appear to have indorsed this opinion; for, in 1825, they migrated westward to more courtly quarters, in a college of classic design, built for them by Sir Robert Smirke, in Pall-mall East and Trafalgar-square, at the cost of £30,000.

The college in Warwick-lane was opened in 1764. A full account of it, with two plans, an elevation, and a section of its singular and well-imagined theatre, is given by Elmes in his "Life of Wren."

The octagonal porch of entrance, 40 ft. in diameter, is the most intact portion remaining of Wren's work. The interior, above the porch, formed the lecture-room, which is light and very lofty, being open upwards to the roof of the edifice.

The buildings in the rear, the more important of the old college, have been so altered as to present little of their original appearance or plan. Mr. John Saunders, who, in 1842, visited the premises for his satisfactory account of the college in Knight's "London," describes the edifice at that time to have comprised a lofty hall with a noble staircase, the balusters most elaborately carved, and the ceiling elegantly decorated in panels. Above was a dining-room, 60 ft. by 24 ft., with a ceiling of deep and elaborate stucco ornaments of foliage, flowers, &c., on a beautiful light-blue ground; and a broad cornice of similar character extending round the room. The chimney-piece was of richly-carved oak and marble; above were bold wreaths; and here was the gallery from the library beneath, supported by massive carved brackets, and the upper rail by figures of children. Beyond



TENT, IN THE BED OF THE CAVOUR CANAL, IN WHICH THE BENEDICTION WAS PRONOUNCED AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY.—SEE PAGE 280.

the hall was a smaller decorated room. On the north and south were the residences of the college officers; on the west, the principal front, consisting of two stories, the lower decorated with Ionic pillars, the higher by Corinthian and by a pediment in the centre at the top. Immediately beneath the pediment is the statue of Charles II., with a Latin inscription. On the east is the octagonal side, with the gilt ball above, and a statue of Sir John Cutler below. It appears by the college books that, in 1675, Sir John Cutler, a near relation of Dr. Whistler, the president, was desirous of contributing towards the building of the college, and a committee was appointed to thank him for his kind intentions. Cutler accepted their thanks, renewed his promise, and specified parts of the building of which he intended to bear the expense. In 1680, statues in honour of the King and Sir John were voted by the members; and nine years afterwards, the college being then completed, it was resolved to borrow money of Sir John Cutler to discharge the debt incurred; but the sum is not specified. It appears, however, that in 1699 Sir John's executors made a demand on the college for £7000, supposed to include money actually lent, money pretended to be given, but set down as a debt in Sir John's books, and the interest on both. The executors, however, accepted £2000, and dropped their claim to the other five. Thus Sir John's promise, which he never performed, obtained him the statue; but the college wisely obliterated the inscription which, in the warmth of gratitude, had been placed beneath the figure:—

Omnis Cutleri cedat Labor Amphitheatro.

Hence it has been called Cutler's Theatre, in Warwick-lane.

The college buildings are now the property of Messrs. Tylor and Sons, brassfounders, who conduct their business in a portion of the premises. These have, however, been mostly altered, and roofed with skylight, so as to form a meat-market, for the extension of which the houses which formed the north side of Warwick-square have been taken down. The carved oak fittings have been removed to the private houses of Messrs. Tylor. The celebrated stucco ceiling would be a valuable addition to the Architectural Museum at South Kensington. The octagonal portion of the college, we are informed, will shortly be taken down, and it is intended to use the portico and other stonework in the construction of a lecture-room at Stoke Newington. In the garrets of the old college were formerly dried the herbs for the use of the dispensary; and on the left of the entrance portico, beneath a bell-handle, there remained till lately the inscription, "Mr. Lawrence, Surgeon, Night Bell," recalling the days when the house belonged to a learned institution. It was at one time leased to the Equitable Loan (or Pawn-broking) Company, when the "golden globe" was partially symbolical of its appropriation.

THE MEETING OF THE HUNGARIAN DIET.

WHILE the probability of war between Austria and Prussia is engaging the attention of Europe, the Hungarian question is exciting the utmost interest in Austria itself, and particularly at the Court, especially as the Magyar Diet has resumed its labours, which were interrupted by the occurrence of the Lent holidays. The Hall, or "Table of the States," represented in our Engraving, is once more occupied by the companions of M. Deak, who represents there the districts which have from the commencement of the national history claimed the privilege of self-government. This Königliche Tafel (Royal Table or Court, Curia Regia) is but one of the judicial tribunals which were held at Pesth, and may be said to be the House of Commons. The Septennial Tafel—so termed because it was originally composed of seven members, but afterwards extended to the Palatine, four prelates, nine magnates, and seven nobles—was the supreme court of appeal in the kingdom.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

M^DM^E MARIA VILDA, otherwise Mdme. Marie Wildt, has made a decided success at the Royal Italian Opera in the part of Norma. It appears that this lady, long known in Viennese society as an amateur of great attainments, appeared only a few weeks ago for the first time on the stage. She had altogether sung six times in public, thrice at Berlin and thrice at Vienna, when she arrived in London to undertake the most difficult parts in the whole range of opera—the Normas, the Semiramides, the Donna Annas, who have had no fitting representative at Covent Garden since the retirement of Mdme. Grisi. Mdme. Grisi, however, was not allowed to retire before her time; and, since her withdrawal from the company of the Royal Italian Opera, Mr. Gye has certainly done his best to supply her place. Mdme. Lagrue was tried and found wanting; so also was Mdme. Isabella Galetti (not "Guletti," as an able contemporary has it); so, moreover, were one or two other ladies whose names we forget. As for the new singer, Mdme. Vilda, in the first place, she rejoices in the possession of that most desirable gift, a magnificent voice. Then, she sings with fine expression; being less successful, however, in bravura than in cantabile movements; and, although she is not yet by any means a great actress, she proved in the duet and trio of the final scene that she at least possesses the dramatic faculty. It would be too much to expect a perfect representation of such a difficult character as Norma from an artist so new to the stage as Mdme. Vilda. But her general performance was full of promise, while her singing, considered by itself, left scarcely anything to be desired.

At Her Majesty's Theatre the great event of the present week has, or was to have, been the production of Gluck's "Iphigenia in Tauris," with Mdle. Titiens in the principal part. On Saturday last Signor Mongini, a "robust" tenor, who was heard some years ago at Drury-Lane, under Mr. E. T. Smith's management, appeared at Her Majesty's as Manrico in "Il Trovatore." Signor Mongini used formerly to be celebrated above all for his high notes and for the exceeding loudness with which he uttered them. These high notes he still retains, but he does not make any abuse of them. His voice, especially in the lower region, seems to have improved; and he himself has certainly improved as a singer. Owing to the impossibility of being in two places at the same time, and being resolved, on Saturday, to hear Mdle. Lucca in the last act of "La Favorita," we were unable that evening to hear Signor Mongini in the last act of "Il Trovatore." In the air of the third act, however, he was admirable. The quick movement, the tempestuous "Di quella pira," is quite in Mongini's style, and he declaimed it most effectively. He not only rose to the level of the composer, but went two notes above him, and, instead of the high A, sang (after the manner of Herr Wachtel of unhappy memory) the higher C. The audience evidently thought this a stroke of genius, and applauded it like mad people. Mongini had just before been encoined in the slow movement, "Ah si ben mio," which he sang with great good taste and with an expression of which we did not think him capable.

This afternoon the summer season begins at the Crystal Palace, when it is to be hoped the part of summer will not be omitted. "Acis and Galatea" will on this occasion be performed, with Mdle. Titiens, Signor Stagno, Signor Gardoni, and Mr. Santley in the principal parts.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE LORD WARDEN OF THE CINQUE PORTS.—A curious controversy has sprung up between Hastings and Dover in reference to the forthcoming installation of Earl Granville as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. The question is, has Dover or Hastings the privilege of sitting on the immediate right of the Speaker's chair, or has Earl Granville, in ordering his court, the power of saying what town shall occupy that distinguished position. It is contended on the part of Hastings that that town has enjoyed the privilege during 400 years, and that during that period it right had only been doubted once—namely, by Romney, as the records of the brotherhood and guesting plainly showed. The claim of Romney was referred to the whole House, and it was decided that Hastings should enjoy its rights as heretofore. Dover claims as being the principal port. A committee has been appointed to consider the matter, and the knotty point will no doubt be settled before the day appointed for the installation. The inaugural ceremony, which was to have taken place on the 22nd inst., has been postponed, at the request of Earl Granville, in consequence of the death of Lord and Lady Rivers.

FINE ARTS.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOUR.

THE Exhibition this year is not an advance on former exhibitions, though it is perhaps not a falling off, at all events from last year. But it is impossible for a gallery to lack interest if it contains works by Carl Haag, Walker, Watson, Gilbert, Foster, Dodgson, Naftel, Boyce, and Shields.

It is to be regretted that some of the names we have enumerated have but one or two pictures attached to them in the catalogue list, while after names with which experience associates works of only a mediocre character there occur long strings of figures.

Mr. Walker has only one picture on the walls, which, charming as it is, is not the best painting of his that we have seen. It is entitled "The Bouquet" (25), and represents an old gardener giving a resplendent nosegay to two poor children, orphans, if we may judge from the black in which they are dressed. Their attitudes are easy and even graceful in a rude way, that of the gardener perfectly natural, if not artificially elegant. The girl's face is wonderfully painted, and the old man's head is a fine study. Some objection might be taken to the prevailing glare of red, due to the gravel and the brick wall, but Mr. Walker handles the difficulty boldly and well. The nearness of all the objects, with which some critics will probably find fault, is absolutely true to nature—an effect which is observable on a "steaming hot day," and is due, perhaps, to the tremulous vapour which rises under a scorching sun. Mr. Watson's finest picture—he exhibits four—is "Book-Lore" (207), a medieval figure seated in a chair, and lost in thought suggested by the volume in its hand. There is powerful colouring in this noble work, and the drawing is as careful as the composition is masterly. "Good Friday" (49) is also a large work, and possesses many fine qualities; while a sense of the humorous is superadded to these merits in "Something Wrong" (2), wherein an enthusiastic violinist is striving to discover what ails his cremona. Mr. Burton exhibits but one picture—a study of an "Italian Peasant" (147), of which no higher praise can be spoken than that it is worthy of his well-earned reputation. Mr. Gilbert's works display all his great excellences and some of his faults, among which latter we would venture to point out a too-frequent use of a harsh and crude colour, which at times jaundices his compositions. There is no necessity to particularise Mr. Gilbert's works; for they are not likely to be passed by. But we must give a special eulogium to the great historic picture of "Agincourt" (137), a work of such magnitude that even an artist who paints with the ease and vigour of Mr. Gilbert might have shrunk from attempting.

Mr. Lundgren is a thorough master of his art: his eye for colour is faultless, and his conceptions are pleasing and poetical. His "Dominican Friars Showing to a Traveller the Fresco attributed to Raffaele, in the Library at Sienna" (97) is a finely-harmonised and sombre picture, which, in passages, reminds us of the chiaroscuro of Rembrandt. His "In Memoriam" (156), less lofty in theme, is characterised by the same skill and grace of colour. His figure has a solidity which is wanting, somewhat, in those of Mr. Lamont. The heads in this latter artist's "Echos du Temps Passé" (11) are elaborated with all the delicacy of miniatures; but there is a want of depth and breadth in the painting of the figures, which look almost spectral, in comparison with the reality of the faces. In "The Time I've Lost in Wooing" (256) the choice of costume and arrangement reminds us yet more of an old work in miniature; and this we say by no means in the light of disparage. Mr. W. Goodall's "History of the Cross" (84) is a pleasing enough work, though in parts open to a suspicion of affectation.

Mr. E. K. Johnson exhibits some excellent work, and will prove a valuable accession to the Society of which he has been so lately elected an Associate. Best to our liking of all his pictures is "A Study of Yew Trees" (274), which has a real out-of-door look about it. The figures are naturally placed and graceful. "The Visitor" (105)—where a friend, dropping in on a family taking tea à la champêtre, is heartily welcomed by the little people—is a pleasing composition; and there is very great merit in "Tuning-up" (89), in which a party of amateurs about to sing a part-song are awaiting their orchestra, engaged in screwing up pegs with grave importance. Mr. Birket Foster sends only two small works—"A River Scene" (274) and a picture of a child feeding peacocks at "Winterbourne, Isle of Wight" (321), a most exquisite bit of nature.

Mr. Shields has, to our thinking, scarcely done himself justice in "Thoughts born of Flowers" (161) which is a little weak, and wanting in expression. "The Bible Lesson" (310) somewhat atones for this failure, which is more than made up for by "One of our Bread-watchers" (259), a picture of a little Somersetshire girl in snowy early seed-time scaring the birds from the wheat-fields. An earnest treatment of common life and a thorough mastery of all the technicalities render this picture one of the most remarkable in the gallery.

Mr. Smallfield disappoints the expectations he raised some years since by his "Slave at the Fishpond." The best of his productions this year is "A Girl with Raspberries" (19). All the accessories are realised admirably, but the girl's figure lacks life and grace. "Waiting for a Gentleman from the City" (35) is utterly unworthy of Mr. Smallfield's reputation; and "Jael" (228) shows some questionable drawing in the arm. The "Mermaid" (173) is better in execution as regards both form and colour, but it is not remarkable in conception or arrangement.

Mr. Andrews has attempted more than he can master in his "Shipwreck" (22), the result being that he gives us something not more truthful than the scene from "The Tempest" as revived by Mr. Kean. The waves are ill-drawn and lack translucency, and the composition is extremely awkward. Perhaps Mr. Andrews can tell us what authority he has for putting a flight of gulls in his picture? Those wary birds are far too wise to venture out in a storm. Mr. Taylor gives us some hounds and horses after his old pattern. Miss Gillies exhibits, in "Sorrow and Consolation" (39), some of the best work we have had from her for some time. Mr. Britton Willis is represented by some fine cattle-pictures, such as he only can paint.

The place of honour in the gallery is given—it is difficult to see why—to Mr. Burne Jones. We were in hopes that the mania for that gentleman's work had begun to moderate; but we suppose people are still to be found who praise his "beauty of colouring," which is a tolerably vivid realisation of the tone of a very old painted window that has not been washed for centuries. No one, we presume, attempts to defend his drawing. A schoolboy would deserve to be whipped for such vile foreshortening as we see in the "Chant d'Amour" (72) in the legs of the figure in front. Mr. Jones's pictures impose on the unthinking by being unintelligible, and are therefore taken for granted as grand and imaginative. Imaginative they certainly are not, and we doubt if they are morbidly fanciful even; but with the class of mind that admires Mr. Jones's imagery *omne ignotum pro magnifico*!

The landscape-painters are in strong force in the Old Society. The ground which unites the schools is ably taken by Mr. Carl Haag, whose reminiscences of Eastern travel, whether single figures or groups (as in "A Copt Lady" (76) or "A Family of Arabs" (23), or views—for instance, "The Vestibule beneath the Temple Area" (150)—are the very perfection of water-colour painting. This last picture is a sheer marvel—the realisation is almost illusive, it is so strong! This picture should have taken the place of Mr. Jones's absurdity, for it deserves the post of honour, which should only be awarded to pictures that are a credit to English art.

The space we have devoted to the figure-works leaves us little more than room for a passing mention of the other pictures. There are some of Mr. Boyce's careful readings of passages in nature, selected chiefly in the neighbourhood of Pangbourne, one of the loveliest parts of the Thames. There is a peculiar tone about Mr. Boyce's work, which at times would almost lead one to think he painted from a reflection in a "black mirror." His "Wotton House" (140) proves, however, that he can also master warm, sunlight effects. Mr. Hunt gives us some of his bright, fresh landscapes, with great success, but fails in a Turner-esque attempt at "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower came" (121); Browning has painted it

far more vigorously and artistically in words. Mr. Alfred Newton, Mr. Rosenberg, and Mr. Jenkins are well represented by admirable pictures in the best manner of their respective styles. Mr. Dodgson exhibits one or two works which he has never surpassed by any previous efforts. Knoke Hall, at Sevenoaks, should be immortal if artist's pencil can render it so, for Mr. Dodgson has spent much time profitably amid its beeches. Mr. Davidson's vivid pictures of woodland scenery, Mr. Duncan's masterly rendering of water, and Mr. Naftel's tender appreciation of spring verdure will all be looked for this year, and will not be looked for in vain. Mr. Jackson—still a little too mannered at times—is working back to his early freedom of style. Mr. E. Goodall works with his accustomed skill and love of truth, and the pictures of Messrs. J. and W. Callow and Mr. Holland will be welcomed by the admirers of their styles. Mr. Nash still peoples manorial halls with bright if not faultless groups of figures, and Mr. Cox still strides forward in the footsteps of his great father, whose name he is doing no dishonour to by his earnest and bold work. Mr. Read still wanders in the interiors of vast cathedrals, whose sombre and majestic details, with their gay crowds of worshippers, he reproduces with great knowledge of effect and with a breadth of treatment that recalls David Roberts, Messrs. Burgess, Richardson, Gastineau, and Collingwood Smith are indefatigable workers, and deserve a word of mention for that reason, if for no other; nor should our notice conclude without a tribute of praise to the paintings of Mr. Evans and the broad and telling pictures of Mr. Branwhite.

One word about the election of Associates, and we have done. The new members have done well, and are worthy of the honour of election; but if it be true that "The Man-at-Arms" of Mr. Linton, now exhibited at Suffolk-street, was one of the competing pictures, it is difficult to understand why its painter was not elected. There is nothing on the walls by any member, old or new, that surpasses it in merit; very little indeed that equals it.

THE GOVERNMENT BILL ON BANKRUPTCY LAW REFORM.

THE long-expected Government bill for the amendment of the bankruptcy law of England has been placed in the hands of members of Parliament. It is a consolidating bill, containing 317 sections, and is brought in by the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Sir George Grey.

It proposes to continue the existing Courts of Bankruptcy, with the existing Commissioners and Registrars, and with the existing districts.

Vacancies in commissionerships in the country are not to be filled up; and in London the Commissioners are to be reduced to two. Power is reserved to the Queen in Council to transfer to the County Court the jurisdiction of any country district which may become vacant.

The country Registrars are continued as taxing officers.

The offices of official assignee and of messenger are to be abolished.

The almost sinecure office of accountant in bankruptcy is continued, and at the old salary of £1500 a year; but power is given to the Lord Chancellor, in the event of a vacancy, to abolish the office, should he so determine. A new office, termed the "Controller in Bankruptcy," is to be created, also at a salary of £1500 a year, whose duties are somewhat akin to those of the "Accountant in Bankruptcy" in Scotland, and who supervises the accounts of all bankruptcies.

No "chief judge" is to be appointed, but the Court of Appeal in Chancery is constituted the Court of Appeal in Bankruptcy.

Compensations and retiring annuities are to be paid out of moneys to be voted by Parliament.

Imprisonment for debt (as the result of an action at law or a decree in equity) is to be entirely abolished.

No debtor henceforth is to be permitted to petition for adjudication against himself; but any creditor (however small the amount of his debt) may petition for it against the debtor, if an act of bankruptcy have been committed by the latter.

The provisions for the administration of the estate are very similar to those of the Scottish system. The creditors at their first meeting are to elect an assignee (termed, as in Scotland, the "trustee"), who may or may not be a creditor, but who shall give security to the Court.

Two or more creditors (or proxy-holders of creditors) are then to be appointed "inspectors" of the trustee. These inspectors' duties are similar to those of the "commissioners" in Scotland.

Periodical dividends must be made by the trustee—the first at the expiration of six months after adjudication, and others at the expiration of each succeeding period of three months until the whole estate has been divided.

Four months after adjudication the bankrupt may apply for his discharge, and may obtain it if his assets suffice to pay a dividend of 6s. 8d. in the pound to all his creditors who have proved, or whose claims are admitted, and if the trustee give him a certificate that he has rendered a full account and willing assistance.

In case the estate pays less than 6s. 8d. in the pound, the bankrupt cannot obtain his discharge until after six years from adjudication, and then only in case he has complied with the other requirements of the Act.

Elaborate clauses are appended, providing for change from bankruptcy to arrangement, and for trust deeds for benefit of creditors, for composition, and for inspectorship.

The penal clauses are eleven in number. The Court is directed to commit offenders for trial before the ordinary Criminal Court, and if the Court directs prosecution, the costs are to be borne as costs of prosecutions for felony are borne. The creditors also may prosecute without direction of the Court.

NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.—From this date the British rate of postage on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight addressed to any part of Norway, and forwarded direct by private ship, will be reduced from 5d. to 4d.; letters weighing more, will be charged an additional 4d. for each half ounce of additional weight. All such letters must be specially directed "By private ship." From this day forward all packets of books or patterns posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to any of the British Colonies, will be chargeable with a single rate of postage for every four ounces, instead of with two rates, as hitherto, for every portion of half a pound after the first half pound.

REPRESENTATION OF NOTTINGHAM.—Lord Amberley and Mr. Handel Cossham have each issued addresses to the electors. The candidates were present at a meeting of the Liberal electors on Monday evening, and were received enthusiastically. Lord Amberley spoke at some length, defending the Government as to the one-legged character of their reform measure; while Mr. Handel Cossham, in a not less lengthy speech, declared himself an advanced Liberal. A unanimous show of hands affirmed the candidature of both his Lordship and Mr. Cossham. The only opponent who has issued an address is Mr. Sergeant Simon; Mr. Bernal Osborne, who had put in an appearance, having apparently been satisfied with the cursory glance he has had of the Nottingham lambs.

THE NEW ACT ON PARLIAMENTARY OATHS.—The Act to amend the law relating to Parliamentary oaths was on Tuesday issued, having received the Royal assent on Monday. It recites that one uniform oath should be taken by members of both Houses of Parliament on taking their seat in every Parliament. The oath is, "I, A. B., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and I do faithfully promise to maintain and support the succession to the Crown as the same stands limited and settled by virtue of the Act passed in the reign of William III., entitled, 'An Act for the limitation of the Crown and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject and the subsequent Acts of Union with Scotland and Ireland.'" The name of the Sovereign for the time being is to be used in the oath. The oath now appointed is to be taken in every Parliament by members of both Houses. "If any member of the House of Peers votes by himself or his proxy in the House of Peers, or sits as a Peer during any debate in the said House, without having made and subscribed the oath hereby appointed, he shall for every such offence be subject to a penalty of £500, to be recovered by action in one of her Majesty's superior courts at Westminster; and if any member of the House of Commons votes as such in the said House, or sits during any debate after the Speaker has been chosen, without having made and subscribed the oath hereby appointed, he shall be subject to a like penalty for every such offence, and, in addition to such penalty, his seat shall be vacated in the same manner as if he were dead." Several Acts and parts of Acts from Charles II. to the 23rd and 24th Victoria are repealed.

and all disorders of the Breath, and Lungs.
Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box, of all Druggists.

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